



SC issues notice to govt. on pleas against Act to penalise triple talaq

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Asia-Pacific Group puts Pak. on 'blacklist' for no curbs on terror funds

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China to impose new tariffs on \$75 billion of U.S. imports

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Sai Praneeth, Sindhu in World badminton semifinals

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NEARBY



Commercial vehicles sans RFID tag to face penalty

NEW DELHI  
Starting midnight on Friday, commercial vehicles entering Delhi will have to mandatorily bear radio-frequency identification tags to get through toll plazas at 13 border points in the city. Those failing to do so will face strict penalties.

CITY ► PAGE 4

DDA may launch e-auction of plots

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi Development Authority is likely to launch a scheme for e-auctioning of vacant plots for group housing projects in the Capital in the first week of September, officials of the urban body said. In a meeting held on August 13, the proposal to dispose residential plots for group housing projects was approved.

CITY ► PAGE 2

Akhilesh dissolves all SP units in U.P.

LUCKNOW  
Attempting a course correction in the party after its Lok Sabha poll debacle, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday dissolved all its units in U.P., including the State executive and district and youth wings, sources said.

NEWS ► PAGE 12

# Govt. responds to downturn with steps to boost growth

■ Controversial surcharge on Foreign Portfolio Investors withdrawn ■ But increased surcharge will apply to those earning over ₹2 crore a year ■ Violations of CSR rules will not be treated as criminal offences ■ Govt. will front-load ₹70,000 crore of capital infusion in public banks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The government on Friday came out on the front foot to try to boost private sector sentiments, with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announcing a slew of measures to reduce the burden on the sector, including withdrawing the controversial surcharge on Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) and reiterating the Prime Minister's statement that the government "respects all wealth creators".

Ms. Sitharaman told a press conference that the government would not treat corporate social responsibility violations as criminal offences, as it had earlier said.

"In order to encourage investment in the capital market, it has been decided to withdraw the enhanced surcharge levied by the Finance (No 2) Act, 2019, on long- and short-term capital gains arising from the transfer of equity shares," the Minister announced. "In other words, the enhanced surcharge on FPIs goes and the pre-Budget position is restored."

She, however, clarified that the increased surcharge announced in the Budget would still apply to high net worth individuals earning more than ₹2 crore a year. This, she said, would be the case till India's 75th Independence Day, when the decision would be reviewed.

## When push comes to shove

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced some measures to boost economic growth and promised that there is more to come. Two more press conferences are to be held, one of which will be next week. Here are some highlights:

- Increased surcharge on FPIs scrapped
- CSR violations not to be treated as criminal offences
- Public sector bank infusion of ₹70,000 crore to be released upfront, in one go
- Banks agree to issue more repo-linked loan products to benefit borrowers
- Additional ₹20,000 crore liquidity for housing finance companies, which will also benefit borrowers
- Govt. to purchase cars to boost auto demand; higher registration fees put off
- Delayed payments by PSUs to be expedited
- Angel tax withdrawn for registered startups



Nirmala Sitharaman and her deputy Anurag Thakur, left, in New Delhi on Friday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

- To provide protection to honest decision-making by bankers to boost lending
- Pending GST refunds to MSMEs to be paid within 30 days
- Amendment to MSME Act to move towards single definition to be considered
- Issue of IT orders, notices, etc. through a centralised system to cut harassment
- To set up dedicated cell to address problems of start-ups
- To set up an entity for credit enhancement for infrastructure and housing projects
- Task force to finalise pipeline of infrastructure projects
- More action on development of Credit

sion would be reviewed.

In keeping with the overall push to allay private sector concerns, the Minister also stressed that the government was in favour of penalties rather than prosecution. This would extend to violations of the CSR rules, which it had earlier said could attract a jail term of up to three years along with a fine. The decision had spooked India Inc, and the roll-back should come as a relief.

The government also decided to front-load the ₹70,000 crore of capital infusion in public sector banks that was announced in the Budget, a move that is further aimed at increasing private investment by facilitating greater credit disbursal by the banks. According to the government, this ₹70,000 crore will lead to about ₹5 lakh crore of fresh liquidity that can be loaned out.

In what amounts to a

short-term bailout of the auto industry, Ms. Sitharaman announced that the government had rescinded its ban on the purchase of new vehicles by its departments to replace old ones. Vehicles bought till March 31, 2020, will also be eligible for an additional 15% depreciation. The proposal to enhance registration fees for new vehicles will be kept on hold till June 2020.

The government has also

significantly reined in the discretionary powers of the tax authorities. Ms. Sitharaman announced that from October 1, all notices and summons by the Income Tax Department would be generated by a centralised computer and would carry a unique code.

Any notices not carrying these codes would be considered invalid, and all pending notices would either have to be disposed of by October

1 or reissued with the unique code.

"I have also held meetings with the tax officials at various locations in the country and told them that our tax collection targets are realistic and that there is no need for overreach," Ms. Sitharaman said.

## Repo rate-linked loans

The Finance Minister did not restrict her efforts to boost the economy to just the private sector. In what should be welcomed by borrowers across the board, including those looking for home and auto loans, she announced that public sector banks have decided to increase their repo rate-linked loan offerings.

A major complaint among end-consumers has been that the Reserve Bank of India's repo rate cuts have not been transmitted onwards by the banks. Repo rate-linked loan products will effectively take the banks out of the rate-setting process.

What should also cheer prospective homeowners is that the government has announced an additional ₹20,000 crore of liquidity to the housing finance companies, over and above the ₹10,000 crore earlier announced.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12  
MORE REPORTS ON ► PAGES 15, 16  
SENTIMENT BOOSTER ► EDITORIAL

## New body for infra projects

The Centre proposes to set up a development financial institution to meet the infrastructure financing needs. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, "In order to improve access to long-term finance, it is proposed to establish an organisation to provide credit enhancement for infrastructure and housing projects, particularly in the context of India not having a development bank..." The name would be disclosed in a couple of days. ► PAGE 15

## Loan EMIs may get lower

Equated monthly instalments (EMIs) on home and auto loans are set to become lower as banks will link such rates for fresh loans to the RBI's repo rate. Union Bank of India, which has announced the linking of home and auto loan rates to the repo rate, said the repo-linked rates would be cheaper than the existing interest rates linked to the marginal cost of fund-based lending rate. Term loans will also be linked to external benchmarks. ► PAGE 15

## BSF officer, wife declared 'foreigners' in Assam

Rahman is currently posted in Punjab

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

An assistant sub-inspector of the Border Security Force (BSF) and his wife have been declared "foreigners" by a Foreigners' Tribunal in eastern Assam's Jorhat town.

The citizenship of the officer's parents and his siblings are, however, not in doubt. The family is based in Golaghat district's Udaypur-Mikirpatty close to the Assam-Nagaland border.

The tribunal declared Muzibur Rahman and his wife as non-Indians in an ex parte judgment in July.

### 'Drunkard's account'

Mr. Rahman, currently posted in Punjab, came to know of the judgment against him when he came home on leave in July last

week. He said the Assam police's border wing had relied on a 'drunkard's account' to submit a report to the tribunal against him.

The border wing, established in 1962 to initially prevent infiltration of Pakistanis, is tasked with detection and deportation of foreigners. Currently, 100 Foreigners' Tribunals decide the fate of such "foreigners" referred by this wing. "We have land documents of 1923. It is a pity that a genuine Indian citizen has been made a foreigner on the basis of a drunkard's feedback. My family did not receive the tribunal's notice. The chief of our village also did not inform me," Mr. Rahman said, adding that he had approached the Gauhati High Court.

## The Hong Kong Way



Silent power: Demonstrators gather at the Tsim Sha Tsui waterfront in Hong Kong on Friday as part of a 40-km-long human chain to highlight their protest. They said they were inspired by the 'Baltic Way', when people in the Baltic states joined hands 30 years ago to protest Soviet control. ■ AP

## Chidambaram gets SC relief in ED case

Protection from arrest till Aug. 26

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday protected former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram from arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) till August 26, the next date of hearing.

The ED is investigating the charges of money laundering against him in connection with the INX Media case.

"He already had the benefit of interim bail in the ED matter. He was also questioned in this case. He will continue to get protection," Justice R. Banumathi, leading a Bench comprising Justice A.S. Bopanna, observed.

The interim protection was granted, despite repeated exhortations from Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to

the Bench that "Your Lordships' conscience should be satisfied before giving him any protection."

Mr. Mehta even voiced the apprehension that the interim relief would be "misused" in the remand proceedings due on Monday in the CBI court against Mr. Chidambaram.

The court refused to take a sealed envelope proffered by Mr. Mehta, appearing for the CBI and the ED, which he said contained crucial evidence against Mr. Chidambaram.

The Bench was hearing two separate appeals filed by Mr. Chidambaram on August 20, within hours of the Delhi High Court refusing him anticipatory bail.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12  
LETTERS SENT ► PAGE 12

## Coimbatore under a security blanket

Six Lashkar-e-Taiba suspects believed to have intruded into Tamil Nadu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
COIMBATORE

Massive surveillance has been mounted across Tamil Nadu, especially in Coimbatore, following an intelligence input that six suspected terrorists of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), including five Tamil Muslims from Sri Lanka and a possible Pakistani national, have intruded into Tamil Nadu.

The coastal areas, too, came under heightened surveillance with the police asking fishermen to tip them off on the movement of suspicious persons.

### Last seen on August 21

The suspected terrorists were reportedly last seen in Coimbatore on the evening of August 21, the alert said, adding that one of them had been identified as Illyas Anwar, believed to be of Pakis-



Alert sounded: Coastal Security Group personnel patrolling the waters off Thoothukudi on Friday. ■ N. RAJESH

ists in Chennai, denied any such photograph had been released officially.

Additional DGP (Law and Order) Jayanth Murali arrived in Coimbatore on Friday morning to take stock of the security situation and held discussions with senior police officers. The Hindu had on Friday reported on the intelligence alert and the heightened security in Coimbatore.

The intelligence communication listed five possible targets for attacks: the Velankanni shrine in Nagapattinam; the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) in Wellington; Udhagamandalam; the Air Force Station in Surul, Coimbatore; the Sabarimala shrine in Kerala; and "any other communally sensitive" target.

he has been arrested.

"The specific information came from intelligence agencies here; we are working on the leads," said the official.

Though initially a photo of the suspected Kerala man was circulated on mobile messaging platforms by some police personnel, Director General of Police J.K. Tripathy, talking to journal-

## Centre steps in to control onion prices

Rain in onion-growing States causes concern about hike in prices

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

With onion supplies falling prey to hoarders and profiteers at entry points to Delhi, the Union government has asked the police from all the neighbouring States to take action to prevent artificial shortage in the Capital.

The issue was raised at a meeting called to review the prices of essential commodities such as onions, pulses and oilseeds under the chairmanship of Consumer Affairs Secretary Avinash K. Srivastava here on Friday. Officials from the Intelligence Bureau and the Enforcement Directorate attended the meeting, along with police representatives from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana, Ministry officials said.

"We have already taken action to increase the supply of onions in the market, but



Action has been taken to increase supply, an official said. ■ FILE PHOTO

we have received reports that supplies are being held up at the border by certain traders, hoarders and profiteers," a senior official told The Hindu. "As this is an inter-State issue, we have asked police officers from all neighbouring States to create a common database for more effective enforcement."

Police from all neighbouring States have been asked to hold regular meetings with each other and ensure seamless checks on hoarding both

within the Capital and in other States, as well as at entry points along the border, said an official statement.

Heavy rain in key onion-growing States such as Maharashtra and Karnataka have caused concerns about a hike in prices of the kitchen staple.

On Wednesday, the Consumer Affairs Department had directed Mother Dairy to put a ₹23.90 per kg cap on onion prices at its Safal shops and took efforts to increase supply of the vegetable in the market.

On Friday, the committee decided to further increase the daily supply of onions from the government buffer stock and directed NAFED to release stock from the Price Stabilisation Fund into the market to ensure improved availability at reasonable rates.

## Delhi scores lowest on water management

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI  
Delhi has finished at the bottom of the Composite Water Management Index, an assessment by the Niti Aayog on how States and Union Territories manage their water.

The assessment pans nine themes, each having an attached weight, and assesses how well States have done on criteria such as groundwater and surface water restoration, implementing major and medium irrigation projects, watershed development, participatory irrigation management, on-farm water use, rural and urban water supply, and policy and governance. These indicators were broken down into 28 objective indicators.

DETAILS ON ► PAGE 4



IN BRIEF

**AISA takes out rally against air pollution**  
NEW DELHI  
All India Student's Association (AISA) on Friday took out a rally in Delhi University, calling for an increase in number of DTC buses and metro concessional passes for students, as a means to tackle air pollution.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	129	Gurgaon	106
Ghaziabad	141	Faridabad	71
Noida	129	Greater Noida	120
Legend: Good 0-50, Satisfactory 51-100, Moderate 101-200, Poor 201-300, Very poor 301-400, Severe >401			
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]			

DELHI TODAY

**Music:** A flute recital by Pandit Ronu Majumdar, accompanied by Pandit Ramdas Palsule on the tabla, Rohit Kulkarni on the synthesizer and Omkar Dahiya on the pakhawaj, at Munshi Memorial Hall, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 5.30 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Balagan in Metamorphosis & Other Stories" an exhibition showcasing artworks on paper by Ruchika Wason Singh, curated by Manuela De Leonardis at Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "The Spiritual Gold - Banaras", an exhibition of paintings - abstracts, oil on canvas by Anand Narain at Art Gallery, IIC Annex, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "IhLED in Perspective", a solo photography exhibition by Rajan Bhatt at Delhi 'o' Delhi Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "The Nature of Things", a solo painting exhibition by Kota Neelima at Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

# AUD set to expand with two new campuses

Kejriwal lays foundation stones; initiative to increase student intake of Ambedkar University from 3,400 to 8,000

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
Laying the foundation stones for two new campuses at Dheerpur and Rohini for Ambedkar University Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that education has been the top priority for his government and with the two new campuses, the capacity of AUD would increase from 3,400 students to 8,000 students in three-four years.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Kejriwal said: "Our philosophy is that governance will be incomplete if the government fails to provide high quality education to students. There is no developed country in the world, which does not have a robust education system. The path for India to become a developed nation is to provide good education to our children irrespective of their socio-economic background."

**Deficiency in system**  
The Chief Minister added that students after Class 12 are looking for courses which can fetch them a good job and salary and if the students after graduation are unable to get good jobs, it indicates there is a deficiency in the higher education system.

"We need to prepare our students for jobs. When we came to power in Delhi, only 1.1 lakh seats were available



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia taking a close look at the models of the new campuses in New Delhi on Friday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

in the colleges in the Capital and that has now improved to 1.5 lakh. Around 2.5 lakh students pass out of Class 12 each year, so a gap still remains and many students have to drop out after Class 12. We need to cater to 1 lakh more students," Mr. Kerjiwal said.

**Skill-based courses**  
He added that in the context of the economic slowdown, the government was planning to enable needy students to get employment by introducing more world class skill centres and skill-based

courses through which they can be directly taken into the job market.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in his address said that the biggest problem in Delhi's higher education was a British-era law called the Delhi University Act, passed in 1922.

"The British believed that education must be restricted to the elite in the country. This Act made Delhi University the only affiliating university in Delhi and till date we are suffering the consequences of that. This was a provision made when Delhi would

## What is in store

### DHEERPUR CAMPUS

- The campus will be located near Gandhi Vihar on the outer Ring Road
- It will be spread over **50 acres**, adjoining the Dheerpur wetlands, which is being developed and maintained by AUD in partnership with the Delhi Development Authority
- The campus will have a built-up area of **1,76,000 square metres**
- In the first phase, the campus will have a capacity of **4,500** full-time students and about **2,000** for part-time students



### ROHINI CAMPUS

- The campus will be located at Sector 3
- It will be spread over **18 acres**
- The campus will have a capacity of **3,500** full-time students
- There will be hostel facilities for **900 students**, and **132 housing** units for staff and faculty
- It will boast the same facilities as the Dheerpur campus
- It will have centres for Research Methods; Community Knowledge; Future Studies; and South Asian Studies; Psycho-Clinical Research; Early Childhood and Development; Development Practice; Publishing; Women Studies; and AUD Centre for Innovation and Incubation of Entrepreneurship
- **The campus will house seven schools:** Undergraduate Studies; Liberal Studies; Development Studies; Law, Governance and Citizenship; Business; Public Policy and Social Entrepreneurship; Education Studies; Human Studies; and Culture and Expressions

• The campus will have many facilities, including an auditorium, a convention centre, exhibition centre, seminar and conference facilities, a library, cafeterias, a students' centre, indoors and outdoor sports facilities, guest house, health centre, display and performance areas, convenience/utility centre and a crèche

• **The Dheerpur campus will house seven schools in phase 1:** Undergraduate Studies; Liberal Studies; Development Studies; Human Ecology; Design; Culture and Expressions; and Vocational Studies

- It will have hostel facilities for **750 students** as well as **256 housing** units for faculty and staff
- It will have centres for Research Methods; Community Knowledge; Incubation and Innovation; Future Studies and South Asia Studies

produce only 2,000 students every year. Today Delhi's schools are producing 2,00,000 students each year. We need to change this law. Those who can do this do not seem to have this on their priority at the moment," he said.

Sharing plans for the development of the campus, Ambedkar University said that

the two new campuses at Dheerpur and Rohini would be environmentally sustainable and meet GRIHA 5 standards.

"Both campuses will ensure best standards in energy, water and waste management. The master plans and design of the campuses are made in a way to ensure most conducive environment to fa-

cilitate collective engagement, spaces for self-growth, knowledge production and dissemination, community living and inclusive culture," the university said.

It added that the campuses are also seen to be permeable and connected with neighbourhood communities and beyond to engage with and contribute to the city.

## JNU Students' Union polls on September 6

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
The JNU Students' Union polls will be conducted on September 6, the student-run election committee announced on Friday. The results, it said, would be announced two days later after manual counting of votes.

"The nomination forms will be issued on August 26 and papers will be filed on August 27. Candidates can withdraw nominations on August 28. The presidential debate, which is conducted on the lines of the US presidential debate, will be held on September 4," the election committee said.

The polling will be conducted in two phases - 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

The counting of votes will commence at 9 p.m. the same day, the election committee said.

## DUSU polls: Liloithia meets NSUI members

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee working president Rajesh Liloithia on Friday held a meeting with the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) representatives to discuss the outfits' preparations for the Delhi University Students' Union elections scheduled to be held on September 12.

Mr. Liloithia said that the student community was agitated after the bust of Veer Savarkar, who had "sided with the British during the Independence movement", was placed along with those of Bhagat Singh and Subhas Chandra Bose

"It is very shocking that a great learning institution like the Delhi University has been party to the insult of great freedom fighters of the country by allowing the ABVP to install the bust of Veer Savarkar," he said.

He alleged that Savarkar



Delhi University Students' Union elections are scheduled to be held on September 12. ■ FILE PHOTO

had apologised to the British rulers 16 times in writing and had worked against the freedom struggle.

Mr. Liloithia said that the NSUI's election plank would be to rise above narrow political agenda and discuss issues which would be beneficial to the student community. He added that the Congress party will not allow saffronisation of educational institutions in the country.

## DDA may launch e-auction of plots for group housing projects in Sept.

Initiative is aimed at providing housing to large section of people

**SHINJINI GHOSH**  
NEW DELHI  
The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is likely to launch a scheme for e-auctioning of vacant plots for group housing projects in the Capital in the first week of September, officials of the urban body said.

In a meeting held on August 13, which was chaired by Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal, who is also the Chairman of the DDA, the proposal to dispose residential plots for group housing projects was approved. Senior DDA officials said that the scheme, where individuals as well as developers are eligible to participate, will take off by early September.

**Available plots**  
Among the vacant plots that are to be put on offer are the

ones in Vasant Vihar, Rohini, Dheerpur and a few locations in East Delhi, said DDA officials.

"Through the e-auction, individuals, consortium or partnership firms, who have sufficient funds, will be able to participate. The idea behind this is to enable people own a Delhi address at affordable rates. Once the vacant plots are auctioned, it will be the responsibility of the buyers to develop the group housing projects," said Subu. R, Commissioner, Land Disposal.

Stating that the initiative is to provide housing to a large section of people, Mr. Subu added: "Usually the vacant residential plots are sold to individuals which limits the number of people who can own houses or plots. However, this time the auctions will be held for

group housing projects so that more people can buy houses."

"While the minimum land required is 3,000 square metres, the average range of the land to be provided by the DDA is around 5,000 to 6,000 square metres. The locations are within the Capital and not on the outskirts, which should make the deal more attractive," a senior official said.

Officials also said that the only rider for the auction is that 15% component for the Economically Weaker Section category has to be maintained. "With multiple flats coming up, the market itself can decide the rates. Hence, DDA is giving the plots for group housing projects and not individual plots where only one family can reside," said Mr. Subu.

## Petition to save Daryaganj book market gathers steam

Around 2,000 people have signed it

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
Nearly 2,000 people have signed an online petition to "Bring Back Daryaganj Kitab Bazar" on [change.org](http://change.org) as of Friday evening. The market has been lying shut for several weeks since the Delhi High Court vacated a stay on a direction declaring Netaji Subhash Marg a non-vending zone on July 2.

"The shutting down of the market created a serious impact on the sellers as well as buyers," the petition said.

It argued that it served as a valuable resource to book lovers and students alike giving access to books at cheaper rates and made available even old and rare books. Through the move, authorities had "taken away the culture and history of reading..." it adds.

Currently, vendors in the area are in negotiations with

the North Delhi Municipal Corporation to find a suitable alternative site for relocation.

Kamar Saeed, president of the Daryaganj Patri Sunday Book Bazar Welfare Association, said that it was difficult to arrive at a consensus about how to move forward on the issue. Whether to go for appeal on the court's decision or relocate.

Deputy Commissioner of the area, Vedika Reddy said that given the significance of the book market, the civic body had provided alternative sites but the vendors were not able to arrive at a consensus among themselves. The options for relocation currently mooted by the civic body, including Ram Leela Maidan, a spot near the Hanuman Mandir, and a few others, have so far been rejected by the vendors.

**झारखण्ड सरकार**  
**पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, सरायकेला**  
**ई0 निविदा सूचना**

निविदा सूचना संख्या—DWSD/SKL/10/2019-20  
दिनांक—22.08.2019

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	विवरण
1	कार्य का नाम	Detailed survey, designing and drawing, Supplying & Laying Raw Water/ Clear Water Rising Main, Distribution system, Supplying & Installation of V.T Pump Motor, Centrifugal Pump Motor, Construction of ESR 13.00 Lakh Litres Capacity RCC Elevated Service Reservoir with 16.00M Staging, ESR 22.00 Lacs Litres Capacity RCC Elevated Service Reservoir with 20.00M Staging, Construction of RCC Intake well cum Pump house, Un Conventional Water Treatment Plant Capacity 1.95 MLD, Staff Quarters, Compound wall, House Connection , SCADA System, Five (5) Years Operation & Maintenance with allied works etc all complete job for Kasida Group of Village Rural Water Supply Scheme District of Saraikela-Kharsawan on turn key basis .
2	प्राक्कलित राशि	रु0 1387.15 लाख
3	अग्रघन की राशि	रु0 13.88 लाख
4	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि	रु0 10,000.00
5	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	24 माह + 3 माह परिचालन एवं परीक्षण
6	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	30.08.2019, अपराह्न 04.00 बजे तक
7	बी प्री बी मीटिंग की तिथि एवं समय	06.09.2019, 12.30 बजे अपराह्न। अभियंता प्रमुख का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, नेपाल हाउस, राँची
8	बीड प्राप्त की तिथि एवं समय	20.09.2019, 01.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
9	बैंक गारंटी एवं परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्या जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय	21.09.2019, 01.00 बजे अपराह्न तक पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, सरायकेला
10	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	23.09.2019, 04.00 बजे अपराह्न
11	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी एवं कार्यालय का पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, सरायकेला
12	प्रोक्चोरर्स कार्यालय का समक नं0	06597 234105
13	ई-प्रोक्चोरमेंट सेल का हेल्व लाइन नं0	0651 2480345

नोट—प्राक्कलित राशि एवं अग्रघन की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है।  
वित्तुत जानकारी हेतु वेबसाईट नं0 <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

**बूट - बूट नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूट को तरतेंगे**  
**PR215148 (Drinking Water and Sanitation)19-20"D**

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<b>JANAKPURI</b>	B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543, Adj. Umang Palace.
<b>NOIDA</b>	Nirula's Sec-2, C-135, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
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**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

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**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division Sunder Nagar (HP) on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Starting date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid.
1	Construction of Slapper Tatapani road from Km 25/400 to 30/600 (SH). Construction of 5/7 mtr wide formation cutting in Km 25/400 to 30/600) MDR-22 under CRF HP2017-18-143.	₹ 2,57,05,686/- only	29.08.2019	₹ 5,14,000/- only.	21.09.2019

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in).

Executive Engineer,  
Sunder Nagar Division,  
HPPWD Sunder Nagar-175016  
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

HP/1593/19-20

## First-ever World Youth Conference for Kindness held

President, 60 international delegates attend event

**AARUSHI AGGARWAL**  
NEW DELHI  
President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the first-ever World Youth Conference for Kindness organised by the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) at Vigyan Bhavan here on Friday.

The theme of the conference was "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Gandhi for the Contemporary World: Celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi." In attendance were Union Ministers, prominent artists, nobel laureates and over 1,000 youth representing 27 countries.

The conference was in commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi and aimed at providing youth with creative, effective methods of engaging and realising the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It sought inspiration from Gandhi's championing of non-violence.

Anantha Duraipapp, Director of UNESCO MGEIP, said the motivation for this conference was the general observation that "people have increasingly started to think that being kind is a sign of weakness whereas aggressiveness is respected."

He explained that humans are neurologically wired at birth to be kind but the process of socialisation tears that away.



President Ram Nath Kovind releases a publication at the inauguration of the first World Youth Conference on Kindness in the city on Friday. ■ PTI

Mr. Duraipapp said, the current SDGs will be achieved by 2030 and if "we start our campaign next year, we can have a decade of kindness".

**Gandhi's ideals still relevant**  
In his inaugural address, the President highlighted the relevance of Gandhi to contemporary times. He said, "kindness", a value synonymous with Gandhiji, is very relevant for us," and added that "We could place Gandhiji in a time machine and transport him to any period of human existence and he would find him to be relevant."

The President said that virtue was important to fight environmental degradation and urged the audience to practice acts of kindness.

The conference hosted 60 international delegates from over 27 countries, each of whom work in the field of positive social change.

## Civic officials take stock of waterlogging in Kirari

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
Standing committee chairperson of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation and senior officials inspected Kirari, which has been flooded with rainwater for the last several days, the civic body said on Friday.

Area councillor Poonam Parashar, who raised the issue in the standing committee on several occasions, said that after each spell of rain, the whole area gets flooded. Lack of proper drainage system results in inundation and water seeps into the houses of residents, she added.

Taking account of the situation, chairperson Jai Prakash, directed the officials to make arrangements to remove water by installing additional pumps.

Though the area is an unauthorised colony and falls outside the corporation's jurisdiction, Commissioner Varsha Joshi had earlier said that a plan had been sanctioned to construct a kutchra drain in the area at a cost of ₹1 crore. Last year, during a visit to the area, the CM had said that the situation here was "hellish."









IN BRIEF

**Ensure FIR lodged is against 'godman', DCW to Khattar**  
GURUGRAM  
The DCW has written to Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar seeking registration of an FIR against a self-styled godman in Gurugram for allegedly sexually abusing a girl. DCW chief Swati Maliwal said that the commission received a complaint from a girl who alleged Jyoti Giri, who has an ashram in Bhonda Kala village, had sexually exploited her.

**500 tonnes of plastic collected from drains**  
NEW DELHI  
The Central government's Department of Biotechnology has collected over 500 tonnes of plastic waste in three months with the help of small pilot projects at Barapullah and Babarpur drains, officials informed Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal on Friday. PTI

**Jewar airport: land acquisition gathers pace**  
NOIDA  
The Gautam Buddh Nagar administration on Friday acquired and transferred a tranche of 125 hectare of land to the YEDIA for the Jewar airport, officials said. This entire tranche was acquired from Dayantpur village, taking the total acquisition to 558 hectare. PTI

Man released from jail arrested again

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
A man, who was released from jail in December last, has been rearrested in connection with snatching and vehicle theft cases in Dwarka, the police said on Friday.  
The accused, Vishal (22), was involved in five cases of snatching, they said.  
He was arrested from Dwarka-Matiyala Road on Thursday.  
After being released from jail, he had again started to rob people to arrange money for his drug addiction and a mobile phone for his girlfriend.  
He had recently stolen a motorcycle, which he used to flee after committing crimes, a senior police officer said. A countrymade pistol, two bullets, four mobiles phones and the motorcycle have been seized.

Deadline for getting RFID tags ends, violators to face hefty fines

After three weeks, commercial vehicles without tags will be barred from entering city

**SIDHARTH RAVI**  
NEW DELHI  
Starting midnight on Friday, commercial vehicles entering Delhi will have to mandatorily bear radio-frequency identification tags (RFID) tags to get through toll plazas at 13 border points in the city. Those failing to do so will face strict penalties.  
Vehicles entering the city without these tags will have to pay double the toll as penalty in the first week, four times the amount in the second week and six times the amount in the third week. Following this, commercial vehicles without RFID tags will not be allowed in the city, officials said.  
The system, put in place following directions of the Supreme Court, is poised to reduce congestion at the toll plazas and help bring down pollution levels by banning vehicles that are over 10 years old.  
The tags will allow authorities to automatically deduct toll tax and environmental compensation charge (ECC) in less than 10-15 seconds, as vehicles pass through the toll booths, the South Delhi



An official explaining the RFID project at a monitoring centre. Commercial vehicles are required to bear RFID tags to get through Delhi's 13 border points. ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

Municipal Corporation said.  
The tags are tamper-proof, a senior official said, adding that any attempt to remove it will makes them non-functional.  
Towards making the system efficient, up to 300 cameras have been installed at check points. Footage from these cameras are streamed to a centralised control room, set up in Moti Bagh. From here, municipal staff will keep a check on any congestion taking place and make interventions, officials said. Cameras installed within the toll office that are equipped to record audio, will also help ensure transactions are taking place correctly and help resolve disputes, if any, officials said.  
The computerised system allows recording of various details of vehicles, transactions carried out, movement etc. at the toll plazas.  
While registrations for the RFID tag had been slow to start with, they had picked

up since the SDMC announced strict penalties recently, officials said.  
With nearly 15,000 daily registration taking place since the announcement of penalties, about 1.75 lakh registrations are expected to take place by midnight, a senior official said. However, after expiry of the deadline on Friday, the tags will continue to be available for sale at toll plazas and at six points of sale, prior to the border, in Haryana and U.P.

CCTV project: AAP govt. threatens to impose ₹16 crore cost on BEL

Firm is legally obliged to instal 1.4 lakh cameras by Nov. 22

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
The Delhi government has proposed to impose a penalty of ₹16 crore on Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for its slow pace of installing 1.4 lakh CCTVs at a cost of around ₹320 crore on the streets of Delhi.  
The Delhi government said that BEL is legally obliged to instal 1.4 lakh CCTV cameras by November 22, 2019, but has installed only around 16,000 till date.  
The CCTV project is a flagship project of the AAP government and it has now decided to instal 1.4 lakh more CCTVs on the streets. The company will be "blacklisted" and "complete 10% penalty" will be imposed, in case of a delay, said the Chief Minister's Office.  
"BEL is under legal obligation to complete the installation of CCTVs within nine months according to its



agreement with the Delhi government, and in case it fails to complete the entire installation work within these nine months, it is liable to pay a 10% penalty," an official statement said.  
"Since more than two-thirds of the time given to the BEL is already over, the Delhi government proposes to impose a 5% penalty [₹16 crore] of the overall CCTVs installation project cost [₹320 crore] to begin with," it said.  
The move comes after strong displeasure by the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over the "slow" pace of work.  
The Public Work Department (PWD) of Delhi government has already issued a show-cause notice to the BEL over the "slow" installation of CCTV cameras. "PWD has on numerous occasions, written to the BEL and has alerted them time and again to speed up this very important project of women safety and public welfare," the statement said.  
PWD Minister Satyendar Jain and Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev had recently met the Chairman and Managing Director of BEL and conveyed the government's dissatisfaction over the delay in installation.  
"Currently, around 400 CCTVs are being installed everyday. In the meeting, the BEL CMD had informed that all efforts would be made to improve this number to installation of 1,500 CCTVs daily," the statement read.

Rapid Metro in a shamble, HSVP refuses to take blame

Firm expresses its inability to run the metro operations beyond a fortnight

**ASHOK KUMAR**  
GURUGRAM  
The Rapid Metro, India's first fully privately-financed metro system, seems to have run into a rough weather six years after it commenced commercial operations on November 14, 2013.  
Engaged in a war of words with the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), formerly Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA), over the concession contract for long, the company has recently resent a termination notice for it, besides moving the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on the matter. The company has also expressed its inability to run the metro operations beyond a fortnight.  
Though the company has sought termination of the concession contract reached between Rapid Metro Rail Gurgaon Limited and then HUDA on December 9, 2009, accusing the latter of not allowing the advertisement rights and property develop-

**Fine print**

**TERMS FOR TERMINATION OF CONCESSION CONTRACT**

- If HUDA terminates the contract on account of occurrence of concessionaire event of default, it shall have to pay to the lenders of the project, as per financial agreements, an amount equal to **80%** of debt due, as termination payment
- Upon termination by the concessionaire on account of an HUDA event of default, HUDA shall take over the complete system (all project assets) and the concessionaire shall be entitled to receive from HUDA debt due and **110%** of the adjusted equity

ment rights as per the agreement, the HSVP has rubbished the charges saying that the company was looking for an easy way out of the financial mess it was in and levelling false allegations.  
"They may be having internal financial issues. So to get out of this project they have sent this. We have not done anything unconducive for them. They have created their own problems," said Chief Administrator, HSVP, D. Suresh to *The Hindu*.  
Mr. Suresh said that the

Rapid Metro had sent a similar notice earlier as well and that the HSVP had replied now.  
The officer said that before deciding as to who had defaulted on the contract, there was a need for a due diligence on the financial activities of the Rapid Metro.  
"Nobody knows who they [Rapid Metro] have borrowed money from and where they have spent it, and what fraudulent contracts they have done. We will take a call on their notice

after due diligence," said Mr. Suresh.  
He said that any common man could question the viability of the metro route, adding that the company had not been able to fulfil its ridership obligations.  
On the company's assertion that they could not run metro operations for long, Mr. Suresh said there were many pressing issues to look into before this.  
He added that the Rapid Metro had also moved NCLT and the tribunal was expected to devise some methodology to ensure that the project continued somehow.  
"Let's wait for NCLT proceedings to commence and complete," said Mr. Suresh.  
Rapid Metro Marketing Department Head Gungun Kapoor refused to comment.  
Rapid Metro sources, however, said that the company was making ₹2 crore profit on operational cost with a ridership of around 74,000, but the hefty debt had hit it hard.

High Court seeks reply from govt., LoP on Kejriwal's plea

CM demands quashing summons in defamation complaint against him by Vijender Gupta

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
The Delhi High Court on Friday sought response of the Delhi government and Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta on Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's plea to quash summons in a defamation complaint against him by the BJP leader.  
Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri issued notice to the State of NCT and Mr. Gupta seeking their stand on Mr. Kejriwal's plea by November 20, the next date of hearing.  
The High Court, however, declined to issue notice on



Vijender Gupta and the government has been told to respond by November 20.  
Mr. Kejriwal's application seeking stay on summons issued to him by the lower court on July 8.

Mr. Kejriwal had challenged the July 8 summons by moving a revision plea which was dismissed by the lower court on July 26 that he has also challenged in the High Court.  
The High Court said prima facie, it appears that trial would be required to decide if the AAP chief's retweet of Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's tweet was defamatory.  
**'No trial needed'**  
Mr. Kejriwal, represented by senior advocate Vikas Pahwa, has claimed that he has

not named Mr. Gupta in his tweet or retweet. He also argued that no trial was required to determine if retweets would amount to defamation as then anyone and everyone who retweets a tweet would be roped in irrespective of their comment in the retweet.  
Mr. Gupta, in his complaint, had accused Mr. Kejriwal and Mr. Sisodia of "maligning" his image by allegedly accusing him on Twitter of being part of a "conspiracy" to kill the AAP chief.  
After Mr Kejriwal was

slapped in May this year during the general election campaign, he had alleged on Twitter that the BJP wanted to get him killed by his own personal security officer in the manner in which Indira Gandhi had been assassinated.  
In response to his comments, Mr. Gupta had said that Mr. Kejriwal was slapped because he had relaxed his security cordon. To this, Mr. Sisodia had tweeted that there was a conspiracy to kill the Chief Minister and that Mr. Gupta was allegedly a part of it.

AIMPLB opposes petition seeking framing of Uniform Civil Code

Board says petitioner has a habit of filing frivolous pleas

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has moved the Delhi High Court opposing a petition seeking framing of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC).  
The board has contended in its application that the petition was not maintainable in law and ought not to be entertained. It has claimed that the petitioner, BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, was in the habit of filing

frivolous pleas.  
"It is submitted that the present petition is frivolous in nature and concerns an issue that is no longer res integra [untouched legal issue]. The present issue was dealt with by the Supreme Court of India as far back as in the year 2003," the AIMPLB's application said.  
The application further states that the board was concerned with the impact that a UCC may have on the practical aspects of the personal

laws of Indian Muslims.  
"As such, the applicant is apprehensive that the present status quo [wherein Islamic Religious Law governs the personal matters of the Indian Muslim] is sought to be attacked under the garb of the present mischievous petition," it said.  
Mr. Upadhyay, in his plea, has contended that the Centre has "failed" to put in place a UCC as provided under Article 44 of the Constitution.

Chautala seeks extension of parole, Delhi govt. told to reply

The teachers' recruitment scam accused wants 4-week extension for wife's post-cremation rituals

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
The Delhi High Court on Friday sought response of the Delhi government on a plea by INLD chief O.P. Chautala who is serving a 10-year jail term in a case of teachers' recruitment scam. He has sought extension of parole by four weeks to observe the last rite rituals following his wife's death.  
Chautala was granted parole by the Delhi government on August 12 following his wife's death the previous



O.P. Chautala has been serving a 10-year jail term. •

Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar asked the Delhi government to respond to the plea and listed the matter for further hearing on August 26.  
Chautala's counsel said he needed to be at home to observe a 40-day post-cremation rituals.  
The petition, filed through advocate Amit Sahni, said that as the marriage of Chautala's grandson is expected to be solemnised by the end of this year, the customary rites and ceremonies are required to be followed

for 40 days.  
He was earlier on parole in July to attend the engagement ceremony of his grandson.  
Chautala, his son Ajay and three others are serving 10-year jail term each in the case.  
The Supreme Court in August 2015 had dismissed the Chautalas' appeals against the High Court's verdict upholding their conviction and the jail term awarded by a trial court in the Junior Basic Trained (JBT) teachers' recruitment scam case.

The High Court had on March 5, 2015 upheld the 10-year jail terms awarded to the Chautalas and three others, saying that "overwhelming evidence showed spine-chilling state of affairs in the country".  
The father-son duo and 53 others, including two IAS officers, were among the 55 people convicted on January 16, 2013 by the trial court for illegally recruiting 3,206 JBT teachers in Haryana in 2000.

**Government of Maharashtra  
Public Works Division, Parbhani  
E-Tender Notice No. 17 of 2019-2020 (II<sup>nd</sup> call)**

Online Tender ( e-tenders) in B-1 for 02 (Two) works are invited by the Executive Engineer P.W. Division, Parbhani (Phone No 02452-222708) on Government of Maharashtra Electronic Tender Management system <https://maharashtra.etenders.in/> from registered contractors in appropriate class with public Works Department of Maharashtra State.

The details can be viewed and download online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tendering portal <https://maharashtra.etenders.in/> or [www.mahapwd.com](http://www.mahapwd.com)

(Note :- For Further changes in this Notice Please check above website)

**Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Public Works Division, Parbhani**



DELHI ☀️ Timings				
SATURDAY, AUG. 24				
☀️ RISE	05:55	🌇 SET	18:52	
🌙 RISE	00:00	🌅 SET	13:27	
SUNDAY, AUG. 25				
☀️ RISE	05:56	🌇 SET	18:51	
🌙 RISE	00:22	🌅 SET	14:26	
MONDAY, AUG. 26				
☀️ RISE	05:56	🌇 SET	18:50	
🌙 RISE	01:13	🌅 SET	15:27	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	36	25
Safdarjang	36	25
Palam	37	26

**Delhi Palam Today**  
**35°C** A short spell light rain or thunderstorm expected at few places over the area. Day will remain warm and humid.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
**33°C** One or two spells of rain and thunder shower expected over Delhi and NCR. Drop in day temperature with humid condition likely.

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**THE HINDU**  
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# Yogi keeps Home and Revenue; Suresh Khanna gets Finance

U.P. CM allocates portfolios to Ministers inducted into his Cabinet

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LUCKNOW**  
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has allocated portfolios to Ministers inducted into the Cabinet, keeping 37 departments, including Home and Revenue, with him.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya was given the charge of PWD, Food Processing, Entertainment Tax and Public Enterprises departments. Another Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma was allocated Secondary and Higher Education, Science and Technology, Electronics and IT departments, according to an official statement.

Besides other departments, Mr. Adityanath also kept Housing, Mining, Secretariat Administration, Appointment, Information and



U.P. CM Yogi Adityanath

Institutional Finance. Suresh Kumar Khanna was given the important Finance, Parliamentary Affairs and Medical Education departments. Ashutosh Tandon got the charge of the Urban Development Ministry.

Jai Pratap Singh got Medical Education and Family Welfare departments, previously held by State government spokesperson Sidharth Nath Singh, who will now

hold the charge of Khadi, Silk Industries, NRI and Export Promotion departments, it said.

Agriculture, Agriculture Education and Agriculture Research departments were given to Surya Pratap Shahi.

Swami Prasad Maurya has been given Labour, Employment and Coordination departments, while Satish Mahana got Industrial Development department.

Brijesh Pathak will hold the charge of Law, Justice, and Rural Engineering Services departments, while Mahendra Singh will look after the Jal Shakti department.

Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi got Civil Aviation, Political Pension, Minority Welfare and Muslim Waqf and Haj departments.

Upendra Tiwari was given

the charge of Sports, Youth Welfare and Panchayati Raj departments. Nilkanth Tiwari got Tourism, Culture, Religious Affairs while Kapil Dev Agarwal got Commercial Education.

**Katariya gets transport**  
Satish Dwivedi was given the Basic Education department and Ashok Katariya the Transport.

The Agricultural Marketing department was given to Shriram Chauhan.

On Wednesday, Adityanath inducted 18 new members in his Council of Ministers in the first reshuffle since the BJP government came to power in the State two and a half years ago.

Twenty-three Ministers were sworn in by Governor Anandiben Patel at the Raj Bhavan.

# Find a way to reconstruct Ravidas temple: Mayawati

Appeals to the Centre and the Delhi govt. to expedite it

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LUCKNOW**

Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati on Friday appealed to the Centre and the Delhi government to find a way to reconstruct the Ravidas temple which was demolished by the Delhi Development Authority on the direction of the Supreme Court recently.



BSP chief Mayawati.

**Tughlakabad protest**  
Ms. Mayawati's appeal came a day after a Delhi court sent Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad and 95 others, arrested on charges of rioting and unlawful assembly following violent protest in Tughlakabad area, to 14-day judicial custody.

They were detained on Wednesday night after the protest against the demolition of a Ravidas temple.

The BSP chief, who had

reconstruction of the temple with government expenditure so that proper justice can be done .It should be remembered that the BSP government in U.P. had done many historical works in honour of Saint Ravidas," she tweeted.

**Appeal against violence**

In another tweet, Ms. Mayawati also appealed to the followers of Saint Ravidas not to take law in their hands.

"It is an appeal to the followers of the great saint Ravidasji that they should not get angry and take law in their hands for reconstruction of the ancient temple which was demolished in Tughlakabad, Delhi. The followers of Saint Ravidasji should follow the legal way and path shown by Tathagat Gautam Budh to serve their interests," she said.

# Paddy acreage dips in Punjab this season

Farmers in the State shift to basmati rice, cotton as they give better returns

**VIKAS VASUDEVA CHANDIGARH**

The rice (paddy) acreage in the key grain producing State of Punjab has dipped as farmers have shifted preferences to other crops.

So far the area under water-guzzling paddy (non-basmati) is 22.91 lakh hectares. Last year paddy was sown in 25.92 lakh hectares.

The area under aromatic long-grained basmati rice is around 6.2 lakh hectares till now, while last year farmers had sown basmati in nearly 5 lakh hectares, according to the State Agriculture Department.

**Sowing nearly complete**  
Punjab Agriculture Department director Sutantra Kumar Airi on Friday told *The Hindu* that the key reason behind the drop in paddy area – the sowing of which is almost complete – is farmers expectation of better returns from basmati variety of rice,



Agriculture workers planting paddy in Sangrur district of Punjab. ■ FILE PHOTO: AKHILESH KUMAR

cotton and maize.

"... besides, the State government's crop diversification push has also been a reason that has encouraged farmers to opt for other crops besides paddy. Cotton crop, which was last year sown in about 2.68 lakh hectares, is now sown in close to 4 lakh hectares. The area under maize has also gone up this year to 1.6 lakh hectares.

**Basmati rice fetched me a handsome return last year, which has prompted me to cultivate it again**

**DILBAG SINGH**  
Farmer from Patiala

acres.

In neighbouring Haryana, the area under paddy has remained nearly the same as last year. This year, paddy acreage is 12.88 lakh hectares.

**More cotton in Haryana**

The area under cotton though has registered an increase. Farmers have sown cotton in 7.1 lakh hectares this year against 6.69 lakh hectares in the 2018 season.

"Expecting better returns on cotton crop, farmers have planted more cotton this season in Haryana," said Mr. Suresh Gahlawat, additional director with the Haryana Agriculture Department.

## Marooned



A view of flood-affected Bind Toli near Kurji Ghat in Patna on Friday. ■ PTI

# A 'golden' chance to pass Punjab board exams

Students can reappear for tests again

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHANDIGARH**

The Punjab School Education Board (PSEB) has decided to give a "golden" chance to students of Classes X and XII, who could not pass their examinations, to appear in the tests again.

The decision has been taken to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, as per public notice.

The board is giving special a chance to students who got reappear/compartments in their exams after March 2004 onwards.

"Those students who could not pass their exams or those students who cleared their exams, but now wish to improve their score can avail of this golden opportunity of appearing in exams again," it said. The PSEB has fixed ₹15,000 as

exam fee for letting students to avail of the opportunity.

The Punjab Democratic Teachers' Front has strongly condemned the PSEB's move, alleging that the board was fund-starved and trying to raise money from people to run its functions.

**Move flayed**

"It is sheer commercialisation. With the State government not extending any financial aid to departments and boards, the PSEB is trying to burden people by raising huge sums of money from poor students for allowing them to again appear in exams," Devinder Punia, secretary general of the Front, said on Friday.

He said the board was charging five-times more than what it used to charge for giving special chance earlier to students.

# 'It all happened within five minutes'

Eyewitness recounts tragedy in Ghaziabad where 5 died of asphyxiation

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GHAZIABAD**

Driving on the road to Sihani village in the Nandgram area of Ghaziabad is like playing "Bad Roads 3" on the Android. Amid lopsided growth where there are undulated roads with stones spiking out of the mud and a sewer line being laid where people are already living for years, there are symbols of development such as Avishkar Play School, Fitmania gym and Khushi General Store.

It was in front of Khushi that four labourers and their supervisor died of asphyxiation after they went inside a 14-foot-deep manhole in a Ghaziabad colony without safety gear on Thursday evening.

The workers were connecting the one-and-a-half-foot wide manhole to the under-construction sewer line near Krishna Kunj colony.

The victims hailed from



Rajveer Singh.

Samastipur in Bihar and have been identified as Damodar (40), Horli (35), Sandeep (30), Shiv Kumar (32), and their supervisor, Vijay Kumar (40).

**FIR registered**

An FIR has been registered against the contractor, EMS Infracon and Jal Nigam officials. Four Jal Nigam officials have been suspended. The site in-charge, Monu Singh, who was supposed to supervise the work, has been

arrested.

Local sources said that rainwater had collected inside the manhole and that led to the accumulation of gas inside the chamber. "It all happened within five minutes," said Rajveer Singh, who runs the Khushi store. "They had lunch in my shop before starting work. Their supervisor had directed them to line the sewer with cement. As the first labourer went down, there was a loud sound. Then the two standing outside went down followed by the supervisor and one other. When I heard the supervisor crying for help, I raised an alarm."

Rajveer pulled out a table fan from his shop and put it on the mouth of the manhole. Others opened other manholes to let the gas pass. "By then there team members who were working a few blocks ahead had come. They took them to the hospi-

tal on motorcycles," narrated Mr. Singh.

An old man, on condition of anonymity, said people were living there for years without a proper sewer line. In the rainy season, the human waste could have got mixed with water and seeped into the chamber leading to formation of gas. SP (City) Shlok Kumar said that preliminary investigation has revealed that safety gear was not provided to the labourers and the cause of death was suffocation.

**Magisterial probe**

District Magistrate Dr Ajay Shankar Pandey has announced a magisterial inquiry that will submit its report in 15 days.

On Friday, Manju Diler, member of the National Commission of Safai Karamchari visited the spot and blasted the officials for their lax approach.

## SUV falls into gorge, 2 killed

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SHIMLA**

Two pilgrims died and seven others were injured when the SUV in which they were travelling fell into a gorge in the Chamba district, police said on Friday.

The pilgrims were travelling to Manimahesh temple in Chamba district from Punjab's Pathankot when the vehicle fell into the deep gorge at Chahla village, said SP (Chamba) Monica Bhutunguru.

# Rajasthan's ITIs to be modernised for skill education

Academics, experts lay emphasis on creating 'employment-ready workforce' for industry in future

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT JAIPUR**

As part of the efforts to connect skills with education, the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in Rajasthan will be modernised for facilitating their role in addressing the needs of industry by evolving expertise in different sectors. In addition to the traditional training modules, skill studies are being promoted among the ITI students to provide them a better exposure.

Experts and State government officials deliberated on the strategies to improve skills and entrepreneurship at a conclave of ITI principals held at the Bhartiya Skill Development University (BSDU), which practises Swiss dual system of education by blending real time industry exposure with world-class machinery in its curriculum, here earlier this week.

Academic and industrial experts laid emphasis on

equipping the youth with the necessary skills and education to help create an "employment-ready workforce" for industry in the future. "While studying for a graduation degree, the training in different skills will open up new possibilities for career growth," BSDU president Surjit Singh Pabla said.

The participants in the conclave, including 300 ITI principals from across the State, threw light on the scope for giving academic fa-

cilities and practical exposure to the ITI students. The trainees, who will be given pre-admission in BSDU during their study in ITIs, will learn new traits from Swiss trainers through a curriculum designed by industry experts.

**'Expand curriculum'**

Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation's Managing Director Samit Sharma said the ITIs should expand their curricu-

lum and make productive use of facilities offered by other institutions. State Skill, Employment & Entrepreneurship Secretary Naveen Jain said modernisation would improve infrastructure of ITIs and motivate the students to keep innovating and think of new ideas.

The Swiss dual system was highlighted at the conclave as a unique concept with the focus on customised practical industrial training along with theoretical knowledge.



## Mixed response to cancellation of students' union elections

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government's decision to cancel the annual students' union elections in the current year in colleges and universities has evoked a mixed response across the State.

Several student organisations staged protests on Friday after the Higher Educa-

tion Department issued a notification on Thursday.

While ABVP has opposed the decision, NSUI, AISF and SFI termed the decision undemocratic. The decision has been welcomed by many students and the students' wing of the BJD, saying that it will prevent law and order situation and violence during the elections.

## 1 kg heroin seized, 2 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AIZAWL

The Mizoram police have seized 1 kg heroin and arrested two persons, a senior police officer said on Friday.

The accused were arrested from Tuikhurhlu village near Aizawl on Thursday, the police officer said.

The value of the seized contraband is estimated to be around ₹40 lakh, he said.

## Plan to strengthen Jagannath temple security

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik announces ₹500-crore package to develop Puri as world heritage city

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday stressed the need to strengthening the security features of Shree Jagannath Temple and announced a package of ₹500 crore to develop Puri as a world heritage city.

The package focuses on infrastructure development, multi-lane roads, bridges, multi-level parking, amenities, revival of the Musa river, renovation of ponds, redefining the Maths and rehabilitation of the people ousted from the security zone around the Lord Jagannath temple.

Chairing a meeting at the Lok Sabha Bhawan here, Mr. Patnaik said infrastructure development of Puri was crucial to make it an attrac-

tive world heritage city. Considering the present security environment, it was highly essential to strengthen the security features of the Shree Jagannath Temple, he said.

Saying there could be no compromise on the security of the temple, Mr. Patnaik appealed to the people of the city to consider it as a service and cooperate in the implementation of the initiatives of the government.

### New link road

The decisions taken included a new link road connectivity from Puri bypass from Malatipatpur to the Jagannath Ballav Matha at a cost of ₹190 crore. This 1.5-km iconic link would be connected by a trumpet bridge.

The Jagannath Ballav Math



Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik at a meeting in the Lok Sabha Bhawan in Bhubaneswar on Friday. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

would be developed as an attractive pilgrim centre with multi-level car parking, amenities, commercial and meditation space and multi-modal hub costing ₹180 crore.

The Musa river would be revived and connected to the Mangala river (₹85 crore) and the focus would be on restoring the natural ecology

and recreational activities at the river edge.

### Pedestrian bridge

The Atharnala bridge would be developed as an iconic pedestrian heritage bridge with the support of the Archaeological Survey of India. A new lake would be developed in the city on 28 acres at a cost of ₹35 crore.

## Odisha has checked Maoist activities

Naveen Patnaik will highlight this at the CMs' meet in New Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha has achieved remarkable success in controlling Maoist activities. The Left Wing Extremism-affected districts have been reduced to five from 15 in the State.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will highlight this at a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the Maoist-affected States in New Delhi on Au-

gust 26. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will review the status of security and development in these States.

The decline in Maoist activities and the need for expeditious implementation of developmental programmes in the areas affected by LWE in Odisha was discussed at a meeting in Bhubaneswar on Thursday.

Chief Secretary Asit Ku-

mar Tripathy, who chaired the meeting, said that the government will now give emphasis to development of road connectivity, telecommunication and extension of banking services in these areas.

He said developmental activities had been expedited in the Malkangiri district after construction of the Gurupriya Bridge.

## Small growers launch two tea brands

'Asomiya Red', 'Asomia Green' are handmade organic brands

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Assam's small tea growers, who account for more than half of the State's annual tea production of 692 million kg, have come together to launch two tea brands.

Most of Assam's small tea growers, a category of planters who own up to 100 bighas of land, used to be content with supplying their tea

leaves to factories run by major tea estates or stand-alone bought-leaf factories. But the crisis being faced by the industry has made them team up as a cooperative society to launch 'Asomiya Red' and 'Asomia Green' – two handmade organic brands on Thursday.

There are more than 70,000 small tea growers, an estimate based on the State

government survey in 2011. Together, they account for 52% of the tea production in Assam. "Some growers may not be producing the right teas... But marketing them a larger scale remained an issue. So we decided to launch our own brands," said a spokesperson of the newly-formed Assam Small Tea Growers' Development Cooperative Society.

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Deepti Saxena, Director

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**Passed away peacefully and cremated on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019 at Chennai**

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### DEATH

**C.S.NARASIMHAN, Advocate**, Pondicherry attained the lotus feet of Acharyan on 23rd August 2019. Deeply mourned by wife Vimala and sons Srinivasa Raghavan, Desikan, Family and Friends. Cremation at Pondicherry on 24th Aug 2019. Cont:0413-2335444

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# ‘How can 90 lakh farmers be ineligible for crop insurance?’

Sena chief threatens to stage State-wide agitation if farmers fail to get benefits

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray on Friday demanded to know how over 90 lakh farmers from Maharashtra were categorised as ineligible to receive benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Mr. Thackeray threatened to organise a State-wide agitation again if the farmers fail to get benefits of the scheme.

Addressing reporters in Mumbai, Mr. Thackeray said, “Under the scheme, farmers pay 2% of the premium amount, while the government pays 98% of it. How come over 90 lakh farmers were termed ineligible to receive the benefits of this scheme? Who did this? What were the parameters? Why is it that the farmers suffering from drought and flood in the State are invisible to these companies?”

**‘Provide compensation’** Mr. Thackeray also asked the government to ensure that the companies give insurance compensation to farmers from drought and flood-hit districts of the State or take back the money paid as premium to the private players and distribute it among the farmers.

He claimed that it was only after the Shiv Sena had raised concerns over the im-



**Firm stand:** Uddhav Thackeray gestures to party workers while leading a rally to an insurance company in BKC seeking clearance of pending crop damage claims of farmers last month. ■PTI

proper disbursement of insurance compensation that the companies paid ₹960 crore to 10 lakh farmers.

Mr. Thackeray said, “Around ₹2,000 crore, which was to be disbursed to farmers, is still lying with the insurance companies. This money belongs to the farmers. If the companies are not giving it to them, then they should face prosecution.”

The Shiv Sena chief said the insurance companies

should be given their share of the profit, but the money meant for the farmers must be handed over to them.

**‘Correct flaws in scheme’** Mr. Thackeray said the scheme was conceived with good intention, but its flaws must be corrected. He said the Shiv Sena will stage a State-wide agitation against the companies in case farmers do not get their compensation. He also said the party

would hold discussions with the Prime Minister to sort out the flaws in the scheme.

Last month, the Shiv Sena had organised a march to the office of an insurance company in Bandra Kurla Complex over non-payment of farmers’ claims.

Mr. Thackeray had then demanded the companies to clear the pending crop damage claims and loan waiver applications of farmers within a fortnight.

# Honour sacrifices of Savarkar’s family: Fadnavis

Student wing of Congress claimed it blackened freedom fighter’s bust in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DHULE

The sacrifices that the family of Veer Savarkar made in the freedom struggle are incomparable and his honour must be maintained, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said in Dhule on Friday.

His remarks came a day after the National Students’ Union of India (NSUI), the student wing of the Congress, said it blackened Savarkar’s bust in Delhi University.

Addressing reporters, Mr. Fadnavis said, “Swatantryaveer Savarkar was a guru of many revolutionaries. The sacrifices Savarkar’s family made for the country’s freedom are incomparable. Therefore, I feel his honour must be kept. But in case something has happened somewhere, stern action will be taken. It is my view nobody should provoke and behave in a way that will pose problems to law and order situation.”

The NSUI on Thursday said that it had blackened the bust of Savarkar while garlanding the busts of Bhagat Singh and Netaji Sub-



**Top security:** Guards protect the busts of Veer Savarkar, Subhash Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh in Delhi. ■PTI

hash Chandra Bose, installed by the ABVP-led Delhi University Students’ Union (DUSU) at Delhi University. The DUSU had installed the busts outside the Arts Faculty building on

Tuesday. The NSUI and the Left-backed All India Students’ Association had criticised the move, saying Savarkar cannot be kept on the same pedestal as that of Bose and Singh.

# Publicly thrash those insulting Savarkar: Sena

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

Those who do not respect Veer Savarkar should be thrashed publicly in city squares, Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray said on Friday, a day after the student wing of the Congress claimed it had blackened the freedom fighter’s bust in Delhi University.

Mr. Thackeray said that public thrashing of those insulting Savarkar, a revered figure in Maharashtra, will make them understand the value of freedom.

“Till then they will not realise who had toiled to what extent to attain freedom for the country. These people who insulted Savarkar, whom Rahul Gandhi too had insulted, will not understand value of freedom till then,” Mr. Thackeray said while talking to reporters in Mumbai.

# State finally takes climate change seriously

Health Department to abide by two-year-old policy, set up governing body, task force

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

The State government has retrieved a policy on climate change that was lying in cold storage for two years, and the Health Department will set up a governing body and task force to take decisions to counter hazards related to changing climatic events.

In October 2017, the State Cabinet gave approval to a climate change policy based on an action plan submitted by The Energy and Resources Institute. The policy had cautioned of adverse impacts of climate change on agriculture, and possible floods and health-related problems.

On October 25, 2017, the Environment Department issued a 28-page government resolution (GR) detailing an action plan for departments such as forests, water resources, agriculture, power, health,



Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Health Minister Eknath Shinde (right) take an aerial survey of flood-hit areas. ■FILE PHOTO

public works, disaster management, rural development, urban development, finance and planning.

On Friday, Health Minister Eknath Shinde directed the formation of a governing body that he would lead, and a task force that will be headed by the principal secretary of the Health Department. The

governing body and task force have been tasked with drafting an action plan for the State to gauge the impact of climate change on human health.

“The responsibility of the implementation of the State action plan stands with the State and district task force. The plan will include identifying diseases spread due to climate change,

fixing the risk factor by conducting surveys, working out remedial measures by pinpointing areas and populations at risk, listing available resources,” said Mr. Shinde.

A nodal officer will be appointed at the district level to study climate change, along with an environmental medical unit. The Hindu on August 16 had written that the GR had specifically directed the government to “have department-wise recommendations/ measures by making necessary changes in the existing policies or bringing in new policies.”

The governing body will meet once a year while the task force will have three meetings in a year. All district administrations have been informed to set up similar task forces at the district level, which will be led by the collector.

# Congress to bolster leadership in districts

Party to appoint two working presidents to assist district president ahead of polls

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

Infested with groupism and dormant leadership in a number of districts in the State, the Congress is planning to revive the party organisation by replicating the State leadership model in the districts.

On Thursday, senior leadership of the party’s State unit held a meeting in Delhi with party general secretary K.C. Venugopal to discuss the Assembly polls. At the meeting, a six-member screening committee headed by senior party leader from Madhya Pradesh Jyotiraditya Scindia was appointed to select candidates for the Assembly polls. It was also decided to soon declare the names of candidates from 100 constituencies.

A senior party leader, who attended the meeting, said, “In many districts, the party organisation is almost non-existent. There are some places where we have not changed the district presidents for over a decade. It leads to groupism and power gets concentrated with one person. This hampers the party’s growth. We have now decided to appoint two working presidents to assist the district president and ease the party work.” The

party has experimented with this model at the State level by appointing five working presidents to support State president Balasahab Thorat.

## Tie-up with other parties

The meeting also discussed the party’s alliance with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). The leader said, “The alliance stands strong though there could be further discussion on a few seats. We have decided to finalise within a week or two our candidates for at least 100 Assembly segments where we have no disagreement with our ally.” The leader

said the 100 candidates would get extra time to prepare for the polls.

The party will be holding another meeting to discuss poll preparations in Mumbai next week. The leader said, “We will continue talks with Prakash Ambedkar as we want him with us in this battle. We are always open for discussion and to find a way out of the current crisis.”

The leader said the Central leadership would take a call on joining hands with Raj Thackeray’s Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS). He added, “It seems the MNS is more pally with the NCP and we are fine with it.”

# Living up to legacy



**Precocious talent:** Vardhan Sagar Sathe, grandson of late Tanaji Sathe, the famous Halagi player from Kolhapur, demonstrates his musical skills at a competition organised to mark the 99th birth anniversary of social reformer and poet Annabhau Sathe at Pattankodoli village, around 15 km from Kolhapur. ■ABHJEET GURJAR

# AAP to contest State polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will contest the Maharashtra Assembly polls as the State is reeling under governance failure, AAP’s national joint secretary Ruben Mascarenhas said on Friday. He claimed that the party was foraying into the poll battle to save the State’s “distressed” people.

Mr. Mascarenhas said, “The Devendra Fadnavis government has been a colossal failure. Once a progressive State, it is now plagued by drought, floods, farmer suicides, agrarian distress, unemployment, and failing law and order.”

He also said that the opposition parties in the State were in disarray. The party’s campaign panel will have Ranga Rachure as convener, Kishore Mandhyan as co-convener, Dhananjay Shinde as secretary, and Preeti Sharma Menon will be a member of the committee which will oversee poll preparations, he said.

“We are aware we don’t have a strong presence in the State. We are working to finalise the seats which we will contest. We have invited applications from probable candidates. We intend to contest more than 50 seats. The party is open to alliances.” Ms. Menon said.

# Man slips from waterfall, lands in pond, rescued

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AURANGABAD

A 30-year-old youth who fell from Saptkund waterfall near Ajanta Caves into a pond in Aurangabad district was rescued by personnel from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and local residents, an official said on Friday.

The incident happened on Thursday evening, the official said. He added that the man sustained only minor injuries. “Ashok Bhau-sahab Halkunde, hailing from Bandra, skid near the waterfall and fell into a pond below. The ASI team and local residents used a seat harness to rescue him,” ASI official D.V. Danve, who was part of the rescue effort, said.

“It is baffling that he fell from a height and suffered only minor injuries requiring only first aid,” he said. An Ajanta police official said Mr. Halkunde may have slipped due to the presence of moss and algae at the waterfall.

## EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer-(E&M)  
Disaster Management Centre, Ghaziipur, Delhi-96  
NIT No. EE-E&M/EDMC/ENG/2019/06 Dated: 22.08.2019  
PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer (E&M) on behalf of Commissioner, EDMC invites tenders in e-tendering in two stage system i.e. Stage:- 1 Documents related to eligibility criteria and Stage :- 2 Financial bid for Name of Work :- (1) Comprehensive AMC (Annual Maintenance Contract) for repair and maintenance of pump sets installed at various pumping station under AE (E&M)-I in EDMC, Head of Account: XL-III-D-IV, Tender Amount: 31.68 lacs, Earnest Money: Rs. 61,550/-, Tender Cost: Rs. 1,000/-, Time of Completion: 12 months, Rate shall hold good for: 120 days, Tender No. 315963. (2) Comprehensive AMC (Annual Maintenance Contract) for repair and maintenance of pump sets installed at various pumping station under AE (E&M)-II in EDMC, Head of Account: XL-III-D-IV, Tender Amount: 39.50 lacs, Earnest Money: Rs. 79,050/-, Tender Cost: Rs. 1000/-, Time of Completion: 12 months, Rate shall hold good for: 120 days, Tender No. 315964. The last date of re-encryption of online bid is 05/09/2019 up to 1500 Hrs. Non EDMC registered contractors opting for e-tendering will have to register in the e-tendering system of EDMC. Other details/ information can be seen on website [www.mcdetenders.com](http://www.mcdetenders.com) Sd/- R.O. No. 37/DP/EE/2019-20 Ex. Engineer (E&M), EDMC EDMC'S CITIZENS HELPLINE NO. 155303

### IN THE HIGH COURT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH SHIMLA

In the matter of **M/s. Indian Technomac Company Limited**  
(In Liquidation)  
Company Petition No. 13/of 2014

#### SALE NOTICE

In pursuance of the orders of the Hon'ble High Court, Himachal Pradesh, dated 02.08.2019 & 08.08.2019 in Company Petition No. 13/2014, sealed tenders can auction are invited from the intending purchasers by the undersigned for the purchase of movable, immovable and current assets of M/s. Indian Technomac Company Limited (In Liquidation) described hereunder on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" scheduled to be auctioned on dated 19th September, 2019. The particulars of the properties are given here under in the table:

Lot No.	Name and Description of Lot Property	Location of the property	Reserve Price in Crores	EMD @ 10% of Reserve Price	Specific Condition for Bidding
1.	Land Along with Building and Civil Structures Standing Therein over 189-01-16 Bighas of Land	M/s Indian Technomac Company Ltd. Address: Village Jagatpur, PO Misserawala, Paonta Sahib, Himachal Pradesh	186.59 Crores (Rupees One Hundred Eighty Six Crores and Fifty Nine Lakhs only)	18.66 Crores (Rupees Eighteen Crores and Sixty Six Lacs only)	Open to all bidders
2.	Plant & Machinerries and other Movable Assets including Vehicles	M/s Indian Technomac Company Ltd. Address: Village Jagatpur, PO Misserawala, Paonta Sahib, Himachal Pradesh	97.96 Crores (Rupees Ninety Seven Crores and Ninety Six Lakhs only)	Rs. 9.8 Crores only	Open to all bidders
3.	Other Lands [76-13-00 Bighas]	A.) HB No-156, Rampur Majri [46-13-00 Bighas] B.) HB No-157, Bharapur [30-00-00 Bighas], Paonta Sahib Distt Sirmour H.P.	11.79 Crores (Rupees Eleven Crores and Seventy Nine Lakhs only) 7.57 Crores (Rupees Seven Crores and Fifty Seven Lakhs only)	1.18 Crores (Rupees One Crore and Eighteen Lakhs only) 0.76 Crores (Rupees Seventy Six Lakhs only)	Only Himachali Agriculturist can buy this Land
	265-14-16 Bighas	Total	303.91 Crores	30.4 Crores	

Date of inspection of the property: on 05.09.2019 & 06.09.2019 from 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.  
Last date for submission of Tender: 18.09.2019 up to 4.30 P.M.  
Date of opening of Tender cum Auction: 19.09.2019 at 10.00 A.M.  
Place of Auction: O/o the Deputy Commissioner State Taxes and Excise, GST Bhawan, Hospital Road, Gumnughat, Nahan, Distt. Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh-173001.  
The Tender Form, terms and Conditions can be obtained from the office of the undersigned at cost of Rs. 1500/- (Rupees One Thousand Five Hundred only) during the working days between 11.00 A.M. and 4.00 P.M. from 01.09.2019 to 17.09.2019.  
Sealed Tenders accompanied by the Earnest Money Deposit by way of Demand Draft/Pay order favoring to "Deputy Commissioner State Taxes and Excise, GST Bhawan, Hospital Road, Gumnughat, Nahan, Distt. Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh-173001" during office hours on or before 18.09.2019 up to 4.30 P.M. The offerers, will have liberty to bid for LOT 01(One) and 02(Two) as a composite lot or in individual lots or also by item sales appended to above table and brochure cum tender. The lot no. 3(Three) can be offered for bid as lot (3a) and (3b) as a composite lot or in individual lot appended in above table.  
Sealed tenders will be opened by the Auction cum Tender Committee on 19th September, 2019 at 10.00 A.M. in the presence of the Tenderers who remain present in the O/o "the Deputy Commissioner State Taxes and Excise, GST Bhawan, Hospital Road, Gumnughat, Nahan, Distt. Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh-173001 and they will be given an opportunity to raise their bid by open Auction also. The highest of the Bid in the Auction cum Tender will be accepted as the highest bid by the committee. The sale is subject to confirmation of the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.  
The details "Brochure of Auction cum Tender for Sale of Assets of M/s Indian Technomac Co. Limited in the matter of Company Petition 13 of 2014 and Terms and Condition of the offer of sale" can be downloaded from the website of HP Excise and Taxation Dept 1 and same can be collected from the office of the undersigned and also in the O/o the Official Liquidator, Corporate Bhawan Plot No. 4B, 2ND Floor Madhya Marg, Sector 27 Chandigarh, Tel: 0172-265967476 on any working day between 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM. The said information is also available on the web site [www.hptax.gov.in](http://www.hptax.gov.in), and on Himachal Pradesh Investor Portal.

G.D Thakur  
[Authorized Officer]  
Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes and Excise  
Distt. Sirmour Himachal Pradesh-173001  
Email:- DCSST, Sirmour@mailhptax.gov.in  
gdtakur786@mailhptax.gov.in  
Tel No-01702-222361/0226214[D]

Place : Shimla  
Date : O/o Commissioner -State Tax and Excise  
Government of Himachal Pradesh  
Website-www.hptax.gov.in

HP/0296/2019-2020



CM  
K

A ND-NDE





Minister moots better food testing ecosystem

A robust testing ecosystem is important for an effective regulatory food environment. This is essential to evaluate quality and compliance to standards, Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan said on Friday at the inauguration of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad.

Lone flight service to Lakshadweep grounded

The lone commercial flight connecting Lakshadweep to the mainland was cancelled on Friday as Air India couldn't operate its flight to Agatti as oil companies cut off fuel supply because of payment dues. Air India's subsidiary Alliance Air operates flights between Agatti and Kochi which were cancelled on Friday and Saturday.

U.P. girl, set ablaze by stalker, dies at hospital

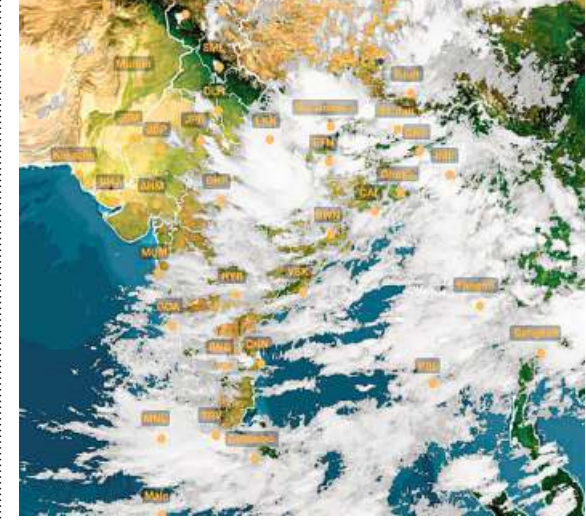
The girl who was set on fire allegedly by her stalker in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district has succumbed to injuries at a hospital in Lucknow, officials said on Friday. She died while undergoing treatment with 70% burn injuries at the City Hospital in Lucknow on Thursday night. The accused has been arrested and a case has been registered.

U.S. Coast Guard ship holds drill off Chennai

The Indian Coast Guard and the U.S. Coast Guard cutter ship Stratton held a joint exercise on Friday off the Chennai coast, during the latter's maiden visit to India. Indian Coast Guard ships ICGS Shaurya, ICGS Abheek and a Chetak helicopter were part of the joint exercise that focused on drills on anti-piracy operations, search and rescue, law enforcement and fire fighting at sea.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe

Table with 4 columns: CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN. Lists weather data for various cities including Agartala, Ahmedabad, Aizawl, Allahabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Coimbatore, Dehradun, Gangtok, Goa, Guwahati, Hubballi, Hyderabad, Imphal, Jaipur, Kochi, Kohima, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Kurnool, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangaluru, Mumbai, Mysuru, New Delhi, Patna, Port Blair, Puducherry, Pune, Raipur, Ranchi, Shillong, Shimla, Srinagar, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchi, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam.

Table with 4 columns: CITY, SO2, NO2, CO, PM2.5, PM10, AQI. Lists air quality data for various cities including Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Pune, Visakhapatnam.

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI). SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments. NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters. CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death. PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

Triple talaq: SC issues notice to Centre

Batch of petitions challenge the criminalisation of the pronouncement of triple talaq

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday took on board a batch of petitions challenging the criminalisation of the pronouncement of triple talaq, even as it pointed out that certain practices such as dowry managed to survive despite being held invalid and condemned as crimes.

A Bench of Justices N.V. Ramana and Ajay Rastogi issued notice to the government on pleas challenging the constitutionality of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act 2019, which penalises declaration of triple talaq by men.

After issuing notice, Justice Ramana closed the case file, but reopened it as an afterthought, saying "some people here will be disappointed if we do not ask you questions..."

The judge may have referred to the large media

contingent in the court room.

Non-bailable offence

The petitions include one by Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind, which said the Act had made triple talaq a non-bailable offence by which men could be imprisoned for three years even as desertion of a wife by a husband is not considered an offence in India.

At best, desertion is a ground for divorce.

The Hind said the three-year imprisonment prescribed under the Act was both "disproportionate and excessive".

The organisation said the law had made the declaration of triple talaq an offence graver than other crimes such as rioting, kidnapping, death by negligence, concealment of birth by secret disposal of body, bigamy, bribery, food adulteration and so on.



Marriage blues: A petition claimed that the sole objective of the new law was "to punish" Muslim men.

Another petition by Samastha Kerala Jamiathul, one of the biggest religious organisations of Sunni Muslim scholars and clerics in Kerala, claimed the sole objective of the new law was "to punish Muslim husbands".

Jamiathul, represented by advocate Zulfiker Ali P.S, contended, "If the motive is

to protect a Muslim wife in an unhappy marriage, no reasonable person can believe that the means to ensure it is by putting an errant husband in jail for three years and create a non-bailable offence for merely saying "talaq, talaq, talaq". Further, the offence is confined only to Muslim husbands.

"It is absurd that for an ut-

ED searches Jet founder's premises

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Enforcement Directorate on Friday searched several locations in Delhi and Mumbai, including premises linked to Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal, under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

Offences under the FEMA are civil in nature.

About a dozen places were searched to gather additional information on the financial transactions which are under scrutiny, said an official.

The ED is looking into Jet Airways' 49.9% stake in one Jet Privilege Private Limited, which was established in 2012 to manage a loyalty and rewards scheme.

Etihaad had bought 50.1% stake in the airline in 2014. The related investigations are being examined by the ED.

13 States, UTs improve their water management practices

Gujarat tops rankings for the second time

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Thirteen of the 27 States and Union Territories have improved their water management practices from last year, an analysis by the NITI Aayog has revealed.

Gujarat, though it dropped a point, topped the rankings for the second year in a row with a score of 75 out of a maximum possible 100.

Delhi at the bottom

Six States did worse than last year – with Delhi, which was evaluated for the first time this year garnering the lowest score – and three maintained their position from last year, according to the Composite Water Manage-

terance which has no legal effect, whether spoken by Muslim, Hindu or Christian, it is only the Muslim husband who is penalised with a three-year sentence. Protection of wives cannot be achieved by incarceration of husbands."

'Null and void'

The petition contended that the Supreme Court had declared the utterance of triple talaq "null and void".

It urged the court to stay the operation of the ordinance while questioning the haste with which the government promulgated it.

A close look at the three separate opinions delivered by the Constitution Bench on August 22, 2017, showed that it was only the minority judgment of the Supreme Court that directed the government to bring an "appropriate legislation" on triple talaq.



Saving every drop: NITI Aayog has come up with an index to look into water conservation policies.

ment Index, a ranking tool developed by the NITI Aayog and unveiled last year.

The 'index' aims at capturing how well States have done on groundwater and surface water restoration, implementing major and medium irrigation projects, watershed development, participatory irrigation management, on-farm water use,

'Case was meant to have chilling effect'

Priya Ramani makes statement in court

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Journalist Priya Ramani, facing a defamation case filed by former Union Minister M.J. Akbar for her tweets accusing him of sexual harassment, told a court here on Friday that the case was initiated to create a chilling effect on women who had narrated their experience of harassment by him.

"I spoke the truth. My tweet was not mala fide, in bad faith, or deeply offensive," she said in her statement before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal. "It is unfortunate that women who had faced sexual harassment at workplace must now defend themselves in criminal proceedings for speaking the truth," she said. Mr. Akbar, she said, was trying to divert the at-



M.J. Akbar

tention from the serious allegations of sexual misconduct against him and the public outrage that followed.

Ms. Ramani said she was 23 years old when Mr. Akbar, editor of a soon-to-be-launched Asian Age, called her to his hotel room for a job interview in December 1993. The court scheduled further hearing in the case for September 7.

6-year-old girl raped by 3 schoolmates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RAIPUR

A Class I student of a government school in Chattisgarh's capital was raped allegedly by three 10-year-old schoolmates, the police said on Friday.

The incident took place on August 20 in a school located in the Khamtari police station limits, an official said.

"As per the girl, three boys, all aged 10, took her to a bathroom in the school. Two of them sexually assaulted her there while the third stood guard outside," he said.

The parents of the 6-year-old girl approached police on Thursday following which a rape and sexual assault case was registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION MANAGEMENT (MANAGE)
(An organization of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030.
Ph: 040-24594509, Fax: 24015388 | Email: pgcell@manage.gov.in
POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT (AGRI-BUSINESS MANAGEMENT) PGDM (ABM) 2020-22
MANAGE invites applications for admission to the 25th batch of its prestigious two year full time PGDM (ABM) program. (Approved by AICTE)
ELIGIBILITY: The minimum qualification for admission is a Bachelor's Degree from a recognized university or institution with at least 50% marks or equivalent CGPA (45% in case of SC, ST and Persons with Disability) in agricultural and allied sciences or any other discipline. Details such as eligibility, selection criteria, reservation, application form, application procedure etc., are placed on MANAGE website www.manage.gov.in.
The candidate must have a valid Score of CAT-2019 conducted by Indian Institutes of Management.
Note: Candidates may apply in anticipation of CAT 2019 results. Score card can be submitted separately after declaration of results.
Last Date for Receipt of Applications 31st December, 2019

एचएलएल लाइफकेयर लिमिटेड
HLL Lifecare Limited
(CIN: U25193 KL 1966 GOI 002621)
Regd. & Corporate Office, Poolappurra, Thiruvananthapuram- 695 012
TENDER NOTICE
Sealed Bids are invited for the Supply and Installation of Servers and Software Packages for Medical Counseling Support Cell. Visit www.lifecarehll.com for further details. Any subsequent amendments will be published in website only. Vice President (IT)
स्वस्थ पीछियों के लिए नवनीक्षण Innovating for Healthy Generations

SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
"A MINI RATNA COMPANY"
E- TENDER NOTICE
NIT No: SECL/BSP/CMC/343, date 20.08.2019, Tender ID: 2019\_SECL\_147680\_1, Description of Work: EMPANELMENT AND SELECTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF COST AUDITOR FOR SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LTD (SECL). Start date & time for submission of bid: 25.08.2019, at 10hrs, End date & time for submission of bid: 05.09.2019, at 17hrs, Date & time for opening of bid: 07.09.2019, at 11hrs.
GM- HOD (CMC) SECL, Bilaspur
Note : For details and submission of bid please visit website CPP www.eprocure.gov.in, and e-procurement portal of CIL https://coalindiatenders.gov.in & www.secl-cil.in. In case of any misprinting/ error, details as per website document will be considered as final.
COAL : PRIME SOURCE OF ENERGY
22375/7

CSL-MUMBAI SHIP REPAIR UNIT (CMSRU)
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
TENDER NOTICE 24.08.2019
Sealed competitive quotation in Two bid system are invited from reputed firms having experience in similar job for the requirement mentioned below at CMSRU, Mumbai for repair vessel WSV Samudra Nidhi. Quotations shall reach to the undersigned on or before 30 August 2019, 15.00 hrs.
1. CMSRU/ Stimulation Pipeline/ S Nidhi dt. 23.08.2019- Tender for Stimulation Package Pipeline Jobs.
2. CMSRU/Acid Blender/ S Nidhi dt. 23.08.2019- Tender for Stimulation Package Acid Blender Job.
Tender with details of requirement can be downloaded from CSL website at www.cochinshipyard.com/Tenders.
"Hindi version of this advertisement is published in the website (www.cochinshipyard.com) of CSL"
Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Ship Repair Materials)

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS
HIGH COURT OF DELHI : NEW DELHI
(website: www.delhihighcourt.nic.in)
DELHI JUDICIAL SERVICE EXAMINATION - 2019
CORRIGENDUM
In continuation of this Court's notice published in various newspapers on 31.07.2019 whereby 45 vacancies [43 existing vacancies and 02 anticipated vacancies] have been advertised for Delhi Judicial Service Examination-2019, it is hereby notified that the number of vacancies for Delhi Judicial Service Examination - 2019 shall be read as under:
Table with 3 columns: Category, No. of vacancies, Remarks.
Category: General, No. of vacancies: 31, Remarks: 02 (backlog), 02 (fresh), 27 (anticipated)
Category: SC, No. of vacancies: 17, Remarks: 12 (backlog), 05 (anticipated)
Category: ST, No. of vacancies: 27, Remarks: 02 (backlog)
Category: TOTAL, No. of vacancies: 75, Remarks: All backlog
Note 1 : Out of aforesaid 75 vacancies, the reservation for PwD candidates shall be as follows:
Table with 2 columns: Category, Vacancies.
Category: PwD (Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness and Multiple disabilities mentioned under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness), Vacancies: 02 (backlog)\*\*
Category: PwD (Locomotor disability), Vacancies: 01 (backlog)
Category: PwD (Blind/Low Vision), Vacancies: 02 (backlog)
Category: PwD (Hearing Impairment), Vacancies: 01 (anticipated)
Category: Total, Vacancies: 08
\*\* 01 vacancy is subject to the outcome of WP(C) No. 5948/2019 titled "Bhavaya Nain vs. High Court of Delhi"
Note 2 : The categorywise bifurcation of anticipated vacancies may undergo a change as the same would depend upon the category of the officers of Delhi Judicial Service to be promoted and would be finalized only after the officers are actually promoted.
Note 3: The Last Date and Time for filling Online Application Form and/or making payment through Debit Card/Internet Banking is extended to 08.09.2019 (10:00 PM).
Sd/- (DINESH KUMAR SHARMA) REGISTRAR GENERAL 23.08.2019

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
(in terms of Para. 27 of RBI Circular No. RBI/DNBR/2016-17/39 Master Direction DNBR, PD, 003/03.10.119/2016-17)
This is a joint public notice by GMR Airports Limited (the "Company"), GMR Infrastructure Limited ("GIL"), GMR Infra Services Limited ("GISL"), TRIL Urban Transport Private Limited ("TUTPL"), Valkyrie Investment Pte. Limited ("Valkyrie"), Solis Capital (Singapore) Pte. Limited ("Solis") (TUTPL, Valkyrie and Solis are collectively referred to as "Proposed Transferees"), in terms of RBI's Circular RBI/2015-16/122 DNBR (PD) CC No. 065/03.10.001/2015-16 dated July 9, 2015 read with Master Direction RBI/DNBR/2016-17/39 Master Direction DNBR, PD, 003/03.10.119/2016-17 dated August 25, 2016 ("Master Directions"), issued by the Reserve Bank of India (the "Bank") as applicable to non-banking finance companies ("NBFCs") being systemically important core investment company ("CIC-ND-SI"). In this regard, the Company has received approval for the proposed change in shareholding from RBI vide letter no. DNBS(BG)No.139/01.02.689/2018-19 dated August 21, 2019.
The Company is a Non-Banking Finance Company registered with the Bank to carry out NBFC activities under Section 45 IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 bearing Registration No. C-02-00260 dated April 22, 2014.
This joint Notice is hereby issued pursuant to execution of a share subscription and share purchase agreement dated July 4, 2019 ("Agreement") by and between the Company, GIL, GIL, the Proposed Transferees and others. The Agreement contemplates proposed transfer of existing equity shares of the Company by GIL and GIL to the Proposed Transferees and allotment of fresh equity shares by the Company to the Proposed Transferees, as a result of which the proposed change in shareholding of the company in aggregate would be more than 26% of the paid up equity share capital of the Company as per the details below.
Immediately post the proposed transfer and fresh issue of equity shares of the Company, the Proposed Transferees shall hold equity shares of the Company as below:
Table with 2 columns: Particulars of Proposed Transferee, Percentage of shareholding proposed to acquire (primary and secondary).
Particulars of Proposed Transferee: TRIL Urban Transport Private Limited (TUTPL), a company registered under laws of India and having registered office at Elphinstone Building, 2nd Floor, 10 Veer Naariman Road, Mumbai (CIN:U45400MH2007PTC285814), Percentage of shareholding: 19.75%
Particulars of Proposed Transferee: VALKYRIE INVESTMENT PTE. LIMITED (Valkyrie), a company registered under the laws of Singapore, having its registered office at 168 Robinson Road, #37-01, Capital Tower, Singapore 068912 (SEBI FVCI Reg. No. IN/FVCI/2016/042), Percentage of shareholding: 14.81%
Particulars of Proposed Transferee: SOLIS CAPITAL (SINGAPORE) PTE. LIMITED (Solis), a company registered under the laws of Singapore, having its registered office at 39 Robinson Road, #15-03 Robinson Point, Singapore - 068911 (SEBI FVCI Reg. No. IN/FVCI/18-19/0464), Percentage of shareholding: 9.88%
Total: 44.44%
Further, subject to confirmation and approval by the Reserve Bank of India, the Proposed Transferees will have the right to nominate 4 Directors on the Board of the Company, out of which (i) TUTPL will have the right to nominate 2 Directors, (ii) Valkyrie will have the right to nominate 1 Director and (iii) Solis will have the right to nominate 1 Director.
The afore-mentioned transactions do not envisage any transfer of management or operational control from GMR group to any of the Investors.
GIL and GIL propose to transfer the equity stake in the Company primarily to leverage their respective balance sheets, besides unlocking the value of the Airport Business of the GMR Group and value creation for shareholders. Investment by the Proposed Transferees in the Company would facilitate further growth of the Airport platform of the GMR Group.
This public notice is being issued by the abovementioned Company, GIL, GIL and the Proposed Transferees.
Table with 2 columns: Sd/-, For and on behalf of.
Sd/-: For and on behalf of GMR Airports Limited
Sd/-: For and on behalf of GMR Infrastructure Limited
Sd/-: For and on behalf of GMR Infra Services Limited
Sd/-: For and on behalf of TRIL Urban Transport Private Limited
Sd/-: For and on behalf of Valkyrie Investment Pte. Limited
Sd/-: For and on behalf of Solis Capital (Singapore) Pte. Limited
GMR GROUP - GAL / 21 / PREM ASSOCIATES
A ND-NDE





Sentiment booster

In rolling back some measures, the government shows it listens to feedback

For an economy that is downbeat in growth and in sentiment, the comprehensive package of measures announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday may just be the right boost. They address growth slowdown concerns; free up funds for investment and spending by banks, housing finance companies and MSMEs; and importantly, undo some controversial proposals, in the budget and outside it, which were affecting sentiment in the markets and the corporate sector. And, importantly, these have all been done without any significant financial burden on the government. Some of the measures promote the ease of doing business and even the ease of living for ordinary citizens. The auto sector's biggest demand – that of reduction in GST rate – may not have been conceded, but Ms. Sitharaman has given the sector enough to cheer about. The accelerated depreciation of 15% (in addition to the existing 15%) for all vehicles acquired till March 31, 2020 and the deferment of the proposed increase in registration fee for new vehicles to June 2020 are positive measures that will boost sentiment and, it is to be hoped, translate into demand. As the festive season sets in, banks will have more space to increase their lending consequent to the upfront funding of ₹70,000 crore (announced in the budget) that they will get from the government towards recapitalisation. This, together with the strong push for repo rate linked loan products, is likely to benefit consumers borrowing to buy new homes, vehicles and durables.

The rollback of the capital gains tax imposed in the budget on foreign portfolio investors, the withdrawal of angel tax on start-ups and the promise that non-compliance with corporate social responsibility (CSR) norms will be decriminalised show a government that is willing to listen to feedback from the ground. Much of the mayhem in the markets could have been avoided though if only the Finance Minister had acted earlier on the negative feedback to the FPI tax proposal. Some of the smaller steps can go a long way. Expediting delayed payments by government departments and public sector units is alone expected to release a massive ₹60,000 crore into the economy. The assurance that all pending GST refunds to MSMEs will be paid within 30 days and going forward such refunds will be made within 60 days is a great relief for the sector. This will ease the cash flows of MSMEs who often work with stretched finances. The most significant takeaway though from Ms. Sitharaman's announcements is the fact that the government is no longer scared of the *suit-boot ki sarkar* jibe. She declared upfront that the government respects "wealth creators" and the measures are aimed at helping them. Will these measures put GDP growth back on the rails? Will they restore the jobs lost in the last few months? The answers to these are in the hands of the wealth creators now. The government did what it could; it is now up to India Inc to take the ball and run.

Shallow draughts

India needs to remind President Trump of the real basis of its claim to J&K

In the run-up to the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump, expected on the sidelines of the G7 summit, many in South Block would have hoped that the U.S. President would not make any of his characteristically controversial statements. The two leaders have a full bilateral agenda to discuss, including defence and strategic cooperation, and will need to resolve outstanding trade issues, as well as deal with possible U.S. sanctions on India for an upcoming purchase of the Russian S-400 anti missile systems and the future of Iran sanctions for oil purchases. It is clear that India's concerns over the U.S.-Taliban peace process will also be high on the agenda. However, Mr. Trump has made it clear, in at least three recent statements, that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and resultant tensions between India and Pakistan will claim much of the conversation. For starters, Mr. Trump has repeated, despite several rejections from India, that he would like to "mediate" between the two countries. He has also called the India-Pakistan conflict over Kashmir a 'religious problem'. While Mr. Trump is free to make assertions, his views on the Kashmir dispute betray an ignorance of the nature of the conflict and the situation on the ground.

Since 1947, the view on the Indian side has been that Partition was not on the basis of a religious divide, but an ideological one: the 'idea of Pakistan' vs. the 'idea of India'. Pakistan was carved out of India because sections of Muslims believed that they could not live equitably with the majority Hindu community. India consisted of those who believed people of all religions could live together in a secular, pluralistic society; and it should be noted that more Muslims chose to live in India than in Pakistan. India's claim over J&K, a State that included Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists, stemmed from this very premise. The government has repeatedly stressed that its decision on J&K was mandated by a desire to provide better governance and development for the people there. Mr. Trump's assertion that the issue over Kashmir is a religious one unwittingly plays into the Pakistani narrative of a conflict that has defied such narrow definitions for more than 70 years. It is therefore necessary that the government firmly corrects Mr. Trump on the matter. While the government has decided wisely to ignore many of his quixotic comments, his assertion that Kashmir is essentially a communal problem is dangerous, and needs to be countered by New Delhi in the interest of bilateral relations, as well as the resolution of the problem itself.



RAKESH SOOD

The countdown on the U.S.-Russia Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty began last October when President Donald Trump announced that the U.S. was considering a withdrawal. On August 2, the U.S. formally quit the pact. Concluded in 1987, the agreement had obliged the two countries to eliminate all ground-based missiles of ranges between 500 km and 5,500 km, an objective achieved by 1991.

At risk is the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) signed in 2010 and due to lapse in February 2021. It has a provision for a five-year extension but Mr. Trump has already labelled it "a bad deal negotiated by the [Barack] Obama administration."

In May, Director of the Defence Intelligence Agency Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley declared that "Russia probably is not adhering to the nuclear testing moratorium in a manner consistent with the 'zero-yield' standard" imposed by the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The CTBT has not entered into force but the U.S. is a signatory and Russia has signed and ratified it. Many have interpreted Lt. Gen. Ashley's statement as preparing the ground for a resumption of nuclear explosives testing. Taken together, these ominous pointers indicate the beginning of a new nuclear arms race.

The decade of the 1980s saw heightened Cold War tensions. Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan in 1979 provided the U.S. an opportunity to fund a

(barely) covert jihad with the help of Pakistan. President Ronald Reagan called the USSR "an evil empire" and launched his space war initiative. Soviet deployments in Europe of SS-20 missiles were matched by the U.S. with Pershing II and cruise missiles.

Cold War talks

In 1985, the two countries entered into arms control negotiations on three tracks. The first dealt with strategic weapons with ranges of over 5,500 km, leading to the START agreement in 1991 that limited both sides to 1,600 strategic delivery vehicles and 6,000 warheads. A second track dealt with intermediate-range missiles, of particular concern to the Europeans, and this led to the INF Treaty in 1987. A third track, Nuclear and Space Talks, was intended to address Soviet concerns regarding the U.S.'s Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) but this did not yield any concrete outcome.

The INF Treaty was hailed as a great disarmament pact even though no nuclear warheads were dismantled and similar range air-launched and sea-launched missiles were not constrained. Further, since it was a bilateral agreement, the treaty did not restrict other countries, but this hardly mattered as it was an age of bipolarity and the U.S.-USSR nuclear equation was the only one that counted. By 1991, the INF had been implemented. The USSR destroyed a total of 1,846 missiles and the U.S. did the same with 846 Pershing and cruise missiles. Associated production facilities were also closed down. In keeping with Reagan's dictum of 'trust but verify', the INF Treaty was the first pact to include intensive verification measures, including on-site inspections.

With the end of the Cold War and the break-up of the USSR in end-1991, the arms race was over. Former Soviet allies were now joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and negotiating to become European Union (EU) members. The U.S. was investing in missile defence and conventional global precision strike capabilities to expand its technological lead. Importantly, some of these were blurring the nuclear-conventional divide.

U.S. withdrawal from ABM

In 2001, when the U.S. announced its unilateral withdrawal from the 1972 Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM Treaty), a keystone of bilateral nuclear arms control was removed.

The INF Treaty had been under threat for some time. The U.S. had started voicing concerns about the Novator 9M729 missile tests nearly a decade ago. As Russia began production, formal allegations of violation of the INF Treaty were raised by the Obama administration in 2014. Russia denied the allegations and blamed the U.S. for deploying missile defence interceptors in Poland and Romania, using dual-purpose launchers that could be quickly reconfigured to launch Tomahawk missiles.

Basically, Russia believes that nuclear stability began getting upset since the U.S.'s unilateral withdrawal from the ABM Treaty. As the U.S. used its technological lead to gain advantage, Russia became more dependent on its offensive nuclear arsenal and began its modernisation and diversification.

The U.S.'s 2017 National Security Strategy and the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) the following year reflected harsher-than-before assessment of its security environment and sought a more expansive



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role for nuclear weapons, in a break from the policies that had been followed since the end of the Cold War. Russia was seen as a 'disruptive power' pushing for a re-ordering of security and economic structures in Europe and West Asia in its favour. China was identified for the first time as a strategic competitor that was seeking regional hegemony in the Indo-Pacific region in the near-term and "displacement of the U.S. to achieve global pre-eminence in the future".

With the geopolitical shift to the Indo-Pacific, the U.S. believes that the INF Treaty was putting it at a disadvantage compared to China which is rapidly modernising and currently has 95% of its ballistic and cruise missile inventory in the INF range. Against this political backdrop, the demise of the agreement was a foregone conclusion.

The 2011 New START was a successor to the START framework of 1991 and limited both sides to 700 strategic launchers and 1,550 operational warheads. It lapses in February 2021 unless extended for a five-year period. Mr. Trump has indicated that a decision on the agreement will be taken in January 2021, after the 2020 election. Given his dislike for it, if he is re-elected, it is clear that the New START will also meet the fate of the INF Treaty. This means that,

for the first time since 1972, when the Strategic Arms Limitation Act (SALT) I concluded, strategic arsenals from the U.S. and Russia will not be constrained by any arms control agreement.

Testing of low-yield weapons

The 2018 NPR envisaged development of new nuclear weapons, including low-yield weapons. The Nevada test site, which has been silent since 1992, is being readied to resume testing with a six-month notice. The U.S. Senate had rejected the CTBT in 1999 but as a signatory the U.S. has observed it. In addition to pointing the finger at Russian violations, Lt. Gen. Ashley declared that "China is possibly preparing to operate its test site year-round in a development that speaks directly to China's goals for its nuclear force". He suggested that China cannot achieve such progress "without activities inconsistent with the CTBT". Since the CTBT requires ratification by U.S., China, Iran, Israel and Egypt and adherence by India, Pakistan and North Korea, it is unlikely to ever enter into force. Resumption of testing by the U.S. would effectively ensure its demise.

A new nuclear arms race could just be the beginning. Unlike the bipolar equation of the Cold War, this time it will be complicated because of multiple countries being involved. Technological changes are bringing cyber and space domains into contention. All this raises the risks of escalation and could even strain the most important achievement of nuclear arms control – the taboo against the use of nuclear weapons that has stood since 1945.

Rakesh Sood is a former diplomat and currently a Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation

Letting the pearl on the Silk Road shine brighter

The Dunhuang city has been witness to multiple interactions and mutual learning between China and India



SUN WEIDONG

Recently, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang city of China to inspect cultural relics protection and research work. Some Indian friends may have heard about Dunhuang, but not many know about its unique beauty, history and culture. Here I wish to share with you stories about the Dunhuang that I know.

Dunhuang is a land that has gone through vicissitudes of history with ancient legacies and magic beauty. Around 2,000 years ago, a Chinese geographer of the Eastern Han dynasty Ying Shao said: "Dun, means grand; Huang, means splendid." Therefore Dunhuang means the land of grand splendour. Historical changes over the millennium shaped the magnificent landscape of this frontier region west of China's Gansu province and left colourful and gorgeous cultural treasures.

The Mogao Grottoes, located in a desert oasis surrounded by water and mountain, have stood quietly for over 1,650 years and become the most abundant and exquisite Buddhist art relics in China and beyond. Mogao Grottoes are a treasure house of art, architecture, sculpture and painting with 735 grottoes, over 45,000 square meters of murals and 2,000 painted

sculptures. These works of art are exquisitely crafted, with unique craftsmanship, vivid charm, and combination of form and spirit. Like an amazing and colourful movement, they tell a beautiful and touching legend of magic charm lasting thousand years.

Dunhuang is a witness to interactions and mutual learning between China and India, two ancient civilisations. The Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang remind me of Ajanta Caves and Elora Caves in India, which I visited before. All being world-famous, the murals and Buddha figures in these caves tell the historical and cultural ties between Chinese and Indian civilisations, and witness the light of inter-civilisational exchanges and mutual learning.

Indian-style sculptures can be seen in the Mogao Grottoes built during the 4th to 6th centuries. The moves of the most commonly seen Apasara figure in Dunhuang murals are similar to those in Indian classical dances. Dunhuang also keeps many ancient Buddhist *sutras* written in Sanskrit and Patra-Leaf Scripture, a wealth of information for China-India cultural exchanges.

Convergence of cultures

Dunhuang is a classical example of convergence of Oriental and Western civilisations. President Xi Jinping said that Dunhuang is an important hub where Oriental culture met the Western culture in history, and different cultures met and mingled here, shaping the unique charm of Dunhuang culture.



The rich and colourful painted sculptures and murals in the Mogao Grottoes absorb the strength of ancient Eastern and Western art. The splendid Dunhuang culture is a fusion of the best of cultures of various nations. Ji Xianlin, a master scholar on culture in China, said that there are only four cultural systems in the world with long history, vast territory, self-contained system and far-reaching influence, i.e. Chinese, Indian, Greek and Islamic, and these four cultural systems converge in Dunhuang and Xinjiang of China.

Being an important hub city, Dunhuang is known as the "Pearl on the Silk Road". For thousands of years, envoys and officials, merchants and caravans, monks and scholars, capital and technology, integrated and communicated through this silk road, nourishing the development and prosperity of countries along the route.

China and India have also developed close economic, trade and cultural exchanges along the ancient Silk Road of both land and sea. China's paper making, silk, porcelain and tea were introduced

to India, while Indian singing and dancing, astronomy, architecture and spices were introduced to China, which became the historical witness of the mutual exchanges between the two sides. Zhang Qian was sent on a diplomatic mission to the Western Regions. Zheng He sailed to the Western Ocean seven times and visited India six times. Xuan Zang, Kumara-jiva, Bodhidharma and other great monks made the expeditions by crossing over mountains and sailing the deep sea. All of them left touching stories.

Road of friendship

The Silk Road is not only a road of trade, but also a road of friendship and mutual learning among civilisations. It will certainly further promote the deep inter-connectivity and cultural exchanges between countries along the route. The Silk Road spirit is about openness, exchanges and inclusiveness. It reveals the truth that there will be no progress without openness, no development without exchanges and no strength without inclusiveness. Facing challenges of today's world, we should draw wisdom from the history of the Silk Road, unleash strength from the win-win cooperation today, and create a bright future of common development.

Not long ago, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Indian Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar co-chaired the second meeting of China-India High Level People-to-People (P2P) and Cultural

Exchanges Mechanism in Beijing. The mechanism was set up under the joint initiative of President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Since the first meeting, bilateral people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation have seen a fresh boom. At this meeting, China and India agree to host more colourful P2P and cultural events, work for new progress in P2P and cultural exchanges and consolidate the popular support for the sound development of China-India relations.

In the long course of history, China and India, two ancient oriental civilisations, have engaged in exchanges and mutual learning, created two vigorous and charming civilisations, and made great contributions to the development of human civilisation. In the new era, China and India should also adhere to inclusiveness and resolve differences through building common ground. We should transcend civilisation barriers through exchanges, rise above "civilisation conflicts" by mutual learning, and overcome the sense of superiority by promoting coexistence of civilisations. Let's polish the ancient "Pearl on the Silk Road" Dunhuang, paint a new picture of dialogue and harmony and write a new chapter of mutual respect and harmonious coexistence between Chinese and Indian civilisations.

Sun Weidong is the Chinese Ambassador to India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

In custody

The wheel of history has come full circle with the arrest of former Union Minister P. Chidambaram while the incumbent Home Minister is Amit Shah. What an irony of life it is that Mr. Chidambaram has to spend his time in CBI custody at the guest house he had himself once inaugurated (Front page, "Chidambaram in CBI custody," Aug. 23). While one is unsure of his "larger conspiracy" in the INX Media case, the haste and the unprecedented modus operandi adopted by the CBI is deplorable. However, If Mr. Chidambaram had not indulged in any money

laundering activities, he ought not to have knocked on the doors of the judiciary a number of times to extend his bail period. The bigger question here is: Was this arrest aimed at diverting the attention of the Indian public from bigger issues like the economic slowdown and the poor industrial growth? A. JAINULABDEEN, Chennai

The Congress Party has a knack of making logic stand on its head (News page, "It is murder of democracy and rule of law: Congress," Aug. 23 ). Its attitude towards the judiciary has always been ambivalent,

with responses ranging from gushing praise when courts pronounce verdicts that please the party to outrageous displeasure when judges apply the law as they are expected to do. Its accusation that Mr. Chidambaram's arrest is tantamount to the murder of democracy and rule of law stands out not merely because of its absurdity; one senses a veiled threat to the higher judiciary for not prioritising the hearing of Mr. Chidambaram's bail application. The implication seems to be that it doesn't matter if thousands of undertrial prisoners languish in jail just because they lack legal

support but the courts should show extraordinary deference to the bail pleas of a senior Congress leader. The Congress seems to suggest that its high-profile politicians are not on a par with the ordinary citizens of this country. The party needs to be reminded that intimidation of the judiciary, even if it is veiled in verbose and ambiguous language, is a challenge to the rule of law. V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN, Thiruvananthapuram

Fighting the IS

It is not new for the U.S. to create pandemonium in peaceful nations and ask other nations to deal with

the consequences (Front page, "Trump suggests India should fight Islamic State in Afghanistan," Aug. 22). The U.S. was partly responsible for the creation of the Taliban as it provided support to the *mujahideen*. Later, it invaded the same country, Afghanistan, which it once claimed to have liberated from Soviet Russia. And now it wants to leave the fate of the country

in a muddle by negotiating with the Taliban, the same force it fought for 18 years. There is no gainsaying that it was the unnecessary meddling of the U.S. in West Asian nations which created the ultra-jihadist Islamic State. SYED SULTAN MOHIDDIN, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh

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CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: The last paragraph of "The Battle of Adyar, a turning point in Indian history" (some editions, Aug. 23, 2019) erroneously said: "However, Madras was restored to the East India Company in 1949, following the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle..." Actually, according to the book, *The Anarchy: The East India Company, Corporate Violence, and the Pillage of an Empire*, it was in 1749 the news came from Europe.

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# The deadly landslides of Malabar

As Malabar faces up to rain-related tragedies, the debate shifts to whether ecologically sensitive areas should be free of human intervention. **S. Anandan** reports on the plight of the displaced in the hills of north Kerala

Suneesh V., 29, walks gingerly to the tarpaulin-covered front yard of his tiny house as if the earth would give way if he stepped on it a little firmly. He doesn't seem to trust the soil beneath his feet any longer. He lives on Muthappankunnu hill, covered with young rubber trees, in Kavalappara, which is part of the Bhoodanam colony in Pothukallu panchayat in Kerala's Malappuram district. This is where landless tribals secured land after the Bhoodanam movement more than six decades ago. On the night of August 8, the hill suddenly moved, shaking his faith in it.

The rains had been relentless since August 4, but they turned particularly raucous from August 7, flooding the lowlands of Nilambur taluk in the Chaliyar river basin. Almost all of Pothukallu's low-lying areas were submerged, forcing people to seek shelter elsewhere.

Water rose at an alarming pace in the *thodu* (streamlet) at the foot of Muthappankunnu hill as well. Several hill people, including Suneesh, a construction worker, were without work for a few days. On August 8 evening, a clutch of youth in the neighbourhood decided to walk down the road that split the hill in the middle to gauge the situation.

"Word had spread that the Thudimutti bridge, a kilometre downstream on the *thodu*, was flooded. We went wearing raincoats. The stream was fierce. Last year, when it rained heavily, there was fear of landslides, so the hill people were evacuated to relief camps. But nothing happened. So, we were not particularly alarmed this time around," recalls Suneesh.

It was already dark when the young men returned. "There was a power outage. My neighbour Priyadarsh, 32, and I stood in front of my house and chatted for a bit," says Suneesh. "He then decided to go check on his mother and grandmother. Just as he stepped into his homestead, there was a wild rumble from above. It was as though a thousand roller shutters had been slammed down. Fear made me motionless for a while. Moments later, I ran into my house to see my pregnant wife and mother in shock. We did not know what to do," he says, his voice trembling.

Half an hour later, the survivors on the tiny island of green who had been spared by the landslide gathered on what remained of the road. "We realised we would not be able to cross the swollen *thodu*. The hill had collapsed and we spent the night in dread in the small courtyard of my parents' house," says Suneesh.

As rescue workers struggle to retrieve the bodies of Priyadarsh, his mother Ragini and grandmother Devayani from the debris, Suneesh sits on his haunches nearby, unable to move.

"He is terrified," says Pratheesh Prasad, 35, Priyadarsh's brother, who lives in a rented house in Uppada, a neighbouring village. "They all came over to my place for 15 days this time last year. They were thinking of coming again. It's not my loss alone. Several people have lost their close relatives."

## When the hills collapsed

This month Kerala was battered by an erratic monsoon for the second year in a row. The worst tragedies have unfolded in the hills of Malabar this time: in Kavalappara in Malappuram and Puthumala in Wayanad, separated by just six kilometers across the hills.

There were 125 rain-related deaths in Kerala between August 8 and 21, according to the State Disaster Management Authority. About 65 landslides were reported, mostly in the Malabar region. Following a massive landslide in Kavalappara, 59 people went missing. Till August 21, 48 bodies were recovered. At Puthumala, 12 bodies were recovered and the search continues for the five who are still missing. Across the State, 1,800 houses were destroyed by the floods and 14,500 were partially damaged.

"The landslide in Puthumala was three hours before the one in Kavalappara. The Chaliyar was flooded. The waters swept over the Panankayam bridge near Bhoodanam. As debris containing uprooted trees, masses of concrete and mud got stuck at the bridge, streams nearby, including the Kavalappara *thodu*, breached the banks. But since the area was marooned and it was still pouring, no one came to know about the Puthumala slide till afternoon the next day. It was then that everyone also came to know about the Kavalappara slide," says Sivan, 56, a resident of Vellilamadu in Bhoodanam.

Between the Puthumala and the Kavalappara landslides, at around 5.30 pm on August 8, another landslide destroyed the market, community facilities, some 22 houses, a mosque at Pathar, and another ward in the Pothukallu panchayat, a stone's throw away from Bhoodanam. "Seeing that the water of the Ezhavathodu stream was of a different colour, people had already moved to safer places when the landslide occurred. There was no loss of life, but we lost everything else," cries Rojimon I.G.,



"There were 125 rain-related deaths in Kerala between August 8 and 21." Rescuers stumble upon the body of a woman at the landslide site at Kavalappara in Malappuram. (Below) Debris of the massive landslide at Puthumala in Wayanad stretched over 10 km. • THULASI KAKKAT



We were alert as water in the rivulet in front of our house was rising. But when the debris hit us all suddenly, there was a mad scramble to get to higher ground. My sister-in-law was short. Although I stretched out my hand to her, the debris consumed her.

NAUSHEENA  
Advocate

32. "There were eight landslides in the upper reaches, in Valamkolli and Thenpara. Maybe they were triggered by the two granite quarries in the vicinity," he says, pointing to the sea of debris where his house stood.

"No, it was because of the rain," argues Barthila Baby, panchayat member from Pathar. "The operation of a quarry nearby had been stopped some time ago." A village official remembers issuing a stop memo to those illegally mining in Murukanjiram, near Pathar, a few years ago.

Barring a laterite quarry on a hill opposite Muthappankunnu hill, there is no granite quarry close by, says Rajesh Dominic, 38, a farmer who survived the landslide. "However, it is a man-made disaster," he says. "Over a year ago, a planter had come here with heavy earth movers to dig huge rain pits for his rubber saplings. Use of heavy machines at that height, close to the crest of the hill, should have been avoided. The waterlogged pits must have triggered the landslide," he says.

Muthappankunnu hill had a canopy of cashew groves till a few years ago. These were replaced by rubber. "As farmers, we make sure that we conserve the land. I grow areca nut and banana and make it a point to grow grass to strengthen the soil," says Rajesh, who

had to carry out an eleventh hour evacuation of his ageing parents, pregnant wife and children.

The Pothukallu gram panchayat has now submitted a proposal to the government to rehabilitate all the 270 families from the Kavalappara area, says Valsala Aravindan, Bhoodanam ward member and panchayat vice president. "We have also decided not to allow farming in the hill," she says.

At Puthumala, once a scenic village on the slopes of plantation estates, Asghar, 32, waits as excavators look for the missing. He says he was among those who protested the operation of a granite quarry close to the area.

"Blasting at the Pachakkad quarry used to be a pain. Rock pieces would hit our houses once in a while. After a lot of struggle, we managed to get it closed," says Asghar, whose father Aboobacker, 62, a Saudi returnee, is still missing. An early landslide near the abandoned quarry had nearly sunk his two-storey house abutting the road on the lower side of the hill. "Since it was raining heavily, my father went in a car with our neighbour Avaran (68) to take a look. Both are missing," says Asghar.

Given the torrential rain and crevices in some of the hills above – at Chooramala, Mundakai and Attamala – Puthumala residents, many of whom are tea and cardamom plantation workers, or their kin, had already been moved to relief camps. "The situation looked ominous from August 7. Some 53 houses, a mosque, a temple, a post office, the houses of plantation workers called paadi lines, a canteen and a children's play area were later devoured by the landslide. The debris stretched over a 10-km area," says the president of Mepadi panchayat, K.K. Sahad.

At the relief camp in the Government Higher Secondary School in Meppadi, survivors are traumatised. Nausheena, 27, an advocate, shudders at the memory of her failed attempt to save her sister-in-law, 32-year-old Hajira. "We were

alert as water in the rivulet in front of our house was rising. But when the debris hit us all suddenly, there was a mad scramble to get to higher ground. I saw a 7-year-old boy in the neighbourhood clutching onto the sinking pillar of our house and crying for help. I was able to pull him up. My sister-in-law was short and although I stretched out my hand to her, the debris consumed her," she says. With no place to go, her mother, brother and his two children are moving to a rented house at Kalpetta.

The Meppadi panchayat is seeking patronage to buy some 10 acres of lowland to rehabilitate at least 100 families from Puthumala.

## The role of quarries

Kerala was on the path to recovery and rebuilding after the flood in August last year. The flood had also rekindled the debate on whether the State would have been better off had it embraced the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) report of August 2011. Notably, the panel, which was chaired by ecologist Madhav Gadgil, had incorporated the Nilambur-Meppadi hills in the topmost category of Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZ-I).

Initial discussions revolved around the role of quarries in rattling the fragile environs of these hills. Based on GIS mapping data, two scientists of the Kerala Forest Research Institute found in 2017 that the State had 5,924 quarries, both active and abandoned ones. "We found that there are 1,486 granite quarries in ESZ-I, 169 in ESZ-2 and 1,667 quarries in ESZ-3 identified by WGEEP," says the report prepared by T.V. Sajeev and Alex C.J., adding that it was impossible to ascertain whether or not a quarry was functional.

The WGEEP report had recommended a ban on quarrying in ESZs 1 and 2 and also said that existing ones should be phased out in five years. While the Kerala Forest Research Institute report mapped the presence of 12 quarries in a

five-km radius of Kavalappara, the tahsildar of Nilambur, Subhash Chandra Bose, says the entire taluk has just three active granite quarries. "It is not the last stone extracted from a quarry that causes a landslide," says Sajeev.

According to Ali Moideen, chairman of the Quarry Crusher Coordination Committee, with environmental clearances being made mandatory for all quarries, the number of granite quarries in operation in Kerala has come down from nearly 6,000 in 2010 to 728 now. Malappuram accounts for over 100 of them, he says. But no one is disputing the fact that unlicensed, unregulated quarries are also in operation.

A State-wide ban clamped on quarrying in the wake of the landslides has now been lifted, except in Malappuram where the district administration has chosen to continue the ban. In view of the frightening regularity of natural hazards now, the State Directorate of Environment and Climate Change has initiated consultations with other departments and stakeholders to outlaw quarrying in ecologically sensitive regions based on the landslide susceptibility zones mapped by the National Centre for Earth Science Studies in 2010.

The map is being updated now. "The new regulations will also encompass measures to restore abandoned quarries and add teeth to the law against unauthorised quarrying," says Usha Titus, Principal Secretary, Environment.

Simultaneously, a landslide susceptibility map being readied by the Geological Survey of India has already covered over 13,000 km of the 18,000 km mountain region in Kerala. "It is likely to be ready by the middle of next year. Meanwhile, we are visiting the landslide sites for conducting studies. A similar inventory study was undertaken across 2,000 landslide sites soon after last year's floods," says Sachin R., superintending geologist. As many as 5,000 landslides were recorded in the State in 2018.

## The need of the hour

A Post-Disaster Needs Assessment conducted by the United Nations Development Programme in the wake of the 2018 floods and the draft Rebuild Kerala road map have made it clear that current land use pattern, changes in land cover, blocking of natural drains by way of constructions and poor agricultural practices including monocropping have all exacerbated the risk of landslides. Extreme rain events caused by climate change and inadequate early warning measures have made matters worse. "Since it involves too many players, a multisectoral approach is being envisaged to formulate a comprehensive land use policy," says a top official involved in the rebuilding process.

"For regions like Kerala in the Western Ghats, multiple factors add up to the impact we saw during the mon-

Eight per cent of Kerala is classified as a critical zone for mass movements. Further, since the 19th century, over 50% of land with tropical forests and grasslands has been converted to monoculture plantations and agricultural fields. This has made the terrain much more vulnerable to landslides.

ROXY MATHEW KOLL  
Scientist, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology

soons of 2018 and 2019. These are compound events attributable to increased human intervention," says Roxy Mathew Koll, scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology. "Rising ocean temperatures are resulting in large fluctuations in the monsoon winds, so it occasionally ends up in surges of moisture from the Arabian Sea being dumped over peninsular India. The rise in extreme rainfall events over India from 1950 to 2018 is about threefold. It is a new norm," he explains.

Meteorological data indicate that Malappuram received 512% and 248% excess rainfall on August 7 and 8, respectively. In Wayanad, the rain was beyond normal by 312% and 867%, respectively, on the same days.

"Most regions with a slope of more than 20 degrees are prone to landslides. Eight per cent of Kerala is classified as a critical zone for mass movements. Further, since the 19th century, over 50% of land with tropical forests and grasslands has been converted to monoculture plantations and agricultural fields. This has made the terrain much more vulnerable to landslides," Roxy says. He calls for an improvement in weather forecast models and early warning systems.

V. Nandakumar, group head, Crustal Processes, at the National Centre for Earth Science Studies and who visited the landslide sites, says clay liquefaction was visible at Kavalappara. Water kept pounding the rain pits dug for the rubber trees and entered the cracks in the ground. This caused lithomargic clay, which acts as an adhesive between the soil, which is just a few metres deep, and the hard rock underneath, to be wrenched out. It came crashing down as the hill is at a 60% incline, he says.

At Puthumala, unscientific constructions that interrupted natural drains played a role in multiplying the magnitude of minor slides that generally occur in forest areas, says Nandakumar. The need of the hour is scientific management of land use in a people-oriented manner, given the demography of the State, he says.

Rajesh Dominic, the aggrieved farmer at Kavalappara, says that this scientific management should also evolve in consultation with the local population.



FROM PAGE ONE

## Chidambaram gets SC relief in ED case

However, the petitions failed to get listed on August 21 for hearing in the apex court. Mr. Chidambaram was arrested by the CBI from his Jor Bagh residence the same evening. He is on a five-day remand till August 26 with the CBI.

On Friday, the Bench led by Justice Banumathi deferred hearing Mr. Chidambaram's appeal against the CBI to August 26 – the date on which his remand ends. The ED appeal was also listed along with the CBI one.

The apex court indicated that it would, on Monday, comprehensively hear arguments both on the legality of the Delhi High Court's refusal to grant anticipatory bail and the circumstances leading to the arrest on August 21. At the outset of the hearing, Mr. Mehta said Mr. Chidambaram was already under arrest and there was no question of granting any anticipatory bail now.

Picking on this very point, senior advocate Kapil Sibal explained the events leading to Mr. Chidambaram's arrest.

He said his client, despite repeated attempts, could

not get his appeals listed in the Supreme Court. "I moved the Supreme Court on time. I had intimidated the CBI. I did not get a chance to be heard by the Supreme Court... I have a right to be heard. All I wanted was to be heard that day..." Mr. Sibal submitted.

He said his client did not attempt to "run away". He had appeared in public and given a statement to the press after the court did not list his appeals.

"I reached home as I had not slept the whole night. I was arrested from there... Now they are saying 'we have arrested you, you cannot be heard'. My right to life, liberty and dignity under Article 21 cannot be cut down like this," Mr. Sibal argued.

He alleged that the High Court judgment was a "cut and paste" job of a note handed over by Mr. Mehta after the conclusion of arguments in the anticipatory bail and after the judgment was reserved.

Mr. Mehta objected strongly, accusing Mr. Sibal of making false statements in court.

## Govt. responds to slump with steps to boost growth

Companies doing business with government companies will also welcome the decision to expedite delayed payments by Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) to service providers.

According to Expenditure Secretary Girish Chandra Murmu, so far about ₹60,000 crore worth of pay-

ments are pending, including ₹13,000 crore at the government e-marketplaces.

Another move aimed at freeing up the capital of MSMEs is the decision to release pending GST refunds to these companies within 30 days, and release any fresh refunds within 60 days.

## Coimbatore comes under a security blanket

In a communication to all zonal IGs/Commissioners of Police and SPs, Mr. Tripathy urged them to keep a close watch on the movement of strangers/infiltrators.

The movement of ferries/boats should also be monitored closely to prevent any illegal ferrying and infiltration. The unit officers should sensitise the fishermen in the wake of this input to identify any such infiltration, he said.

Mr. Murali gave instructions to Coimbatore City Commissioner of Police Sumit Sharan and other officers on tackling the security-related situation. He also visited the Air Force Station in Sulur for a brief consultation with Air Force officers. The 105 Battalion of Rapid Action Force camp at Mahalingapuram has also been put on alert, sources added.

Mr. Sharan said a red alert has been maintained and the city police have undertaken "extensive bandobust" in places such as shopping malls and temples. "We have also informed the Army and the Air Force to alert their defences," he said. A total of 10 Quick Response Teams (QRT) have been "located in strategic places."

## Citizens left out of NRC will not go to jail at once

They can explore all legal options

**VIJAITA SINGH**  
NEW DELHI

None of the persons excluded from Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC) to be published on August 31 will be immediately put in detention centres, a senior government official said.

The official clarified that any decision would be taken only after the excluded applicants have exhausted all legal options, like the Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs), the High Court and the Supreme Court.

He said a section of the foreign press had created unnecessary hype around the NRC through incorrect reports that millions would lose citizenship once the final list is published on August 31.

By September 1, 200 FTs will be operational; 100 of them already exist. The Ministry of Home Affairs has sanctioned 1,000 FTs that will come up in phases, another official said. From 1985, when FTs were first set up in Assam, till February 28 this year, 63,959 persons were declared foreigners through *ex parte* proceedings. The MHA has already amended the Foreigners

Inform people of legal options, says Assam CM

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Friday asked officials to sensitise the people to the legal options available to those who would be left out of the final NRC to be published on August 31. At a meeting, he also discussed measures to deal with any crisis after the publication of the list.

(Tribunal) Order, 2019 that empowers individuals to approach the FT, as earlier only the State administration could move the Tribunal against a suspect.

The Home Ministry had earlier clarified that those whose names were excluded in the NRC would not automatically be declared foreigners as they would be given adequate opportunity to present their case before the FTs. The time limit to appeal before the FTs is also being increased from 60 to 120 days.

## CBI seeks leads from abroad

It has sent requests to 5 countries for details of financial transactions in INX case

**DEVESH K. PANDEY**  
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has sent requests to the authorities in five countries seeking information on the financial transactions related to the INX Media case, in which the agency has got the custody of former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram.

"The Letters Rogatory [judicial requests] have been sent to the United Kingdom, Singapore, Mauritius, Bermuda and Switzerland. The suspected role of several shell companies in routing funds is being looked into," a CBI official said.

**Kin meet Chidambaram**

Strict access control is being maintained at the CBI headquarters where Mr. Chidambaram has been held for questioning till August 26. On Friday, his wife Nalini Chidambaram and son Karti, accompanied by a lawyer, met him around 6 p.m.

The CBI has alleged that Indrani and Peter Mukerjee paid \$5 million and \$4.5 lakh in 2007-08 and 2008-09 for settling issues related to violation of the Foreign Exchange Management Act by their companies, INX Media and INX News.

Proposing an investigation, the Department of Revenue had then flagged the alleged violation in downstreaming 26% of the funds received from three Mauritius-based companies in INX News.

The agency alleges that the Mukerjeas paid to scuttle the probe and get FIPB clearance for the investment.

While INX Media got FIPB approval for a ₹4.62-crore influx, as alleged, it received ₹305 crore by selling its shares at a premium of ₹800 a unit.



Security personnel patrolling outside the CBI headquarters in New Delhi, where former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram has been detained after his arrest in the INX Media case. •PTI

**CBI's charge**

Mr. Chidambaram was arrested on Wednesday evening, based on a non-bailable warrant issued by a special CBI Judge on the agency's request. The CBI had alleged that he was not cooperating in the probe and was evasive in his replies to crucial questions.

In a statement to the Enforcement Directorate under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, one of the then Secretaries is believed to have said that the violation on the part of INX Media was not intimidated to the FIPB. The issue should have been referred to the Reserve Bank of India, but it was "regularised" and clearance was given.

## Cong. leader's right denied, say lawyers

'SC didn't hear his plea on Aug. 21'

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Senior lawyers of the Supreme Court expressed deep concern about the way former Union Finance Minister and their senior colleague P. Chidambaram was denied a chance to be heard by the Supreme Court on August 21.

Mr. Chidambaram's appeals for interim protection from arrest failed to be listed before any Bench of the Supreme Court for urgent hearing. Despite multiple mentioning before a Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana in the morning and later in the afternoon for a hearing, the appeals lay tangled in procedural nitty-gritty the whole day in the Supreme Court Registry. Mr. Chidambaram was arrested the same evening by the CBI.

Arguing the appeals before a Bench led by Justice R. Banumathi, senior advocate Kapil Sibal on Friday recounted how a senior member of the Bar and a man of

impeccable credentials was denied a hearing by the Supreme Court on August 21. He said it was a denial of Mr. Chidambaram's right to life and liberty.

The open letter, written by senior advocates like C.U. Singh, Jaideep Gupta and Harin P. Raval to the Executive Committee of the powerful Supreme Court Bar Association on August 22, said the "founders of the Constitution could never have imagined that the Supreme Court could deny urgent and immediate listing upon mentioning of a matter relating to the most senior member of the Bar with more than 40 years of experience, 35 years of which he has been a senior advocate."

The letter expressed concern about the manner in which "matters relating to life and liberty of citizens are being dealt with by the judiciary". The letter urged the committee to bring the issue to the urgent attention of the Chief Justice of India.

## Tharoor, Singhvi back Ramesh on Modi praise

He said Opposition won't gain from constant PM bashing

**SANDEEP PHUKAN**  
NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh's statement that "demonising Prime Minister Narendra Modi doesn't help the Opposition" started a debate within the Congress on Friday, with party leaders Shashi Tharoor and Abhishek Singhvi coming out in support of Mr. Ramesh.

However, the Congress, at its official press briefing, refused to react to the comments.

"Always said demonising #Modi wrong. Not only is he #PM of nation, a one way opposition actually helps him. Acts are always good, bad & indifferent—they must be judged issue wise and not person wise. Certainly, #ujjwala scheme is only one amongst other good deeds," tweeted Mr. Singhvi.

At a book launch on Wednesday, Mr. Ramesh said the "governance model of Prime



Shashi Tharoor

Minister Modi is not a completely negative story."

His comment stands out, as the Congress's 2019 campaign was centred on Mr. Modi's style of leadership.

Though privately a few Congress leaders had raised the very personal nature of the campaign, Mr. Ramesh is the first high-profile leader to suggest moderation in the party's anti-Modi rhetoric.

He said the Opposition should recognise the work done by Mr. Modi for which he was voted back to power.

## Chidambaram seeks stay on remand

Files fresh plea in Supreme Court

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Friday filed a fresh plea in the Supreme Court for stay of the trial court order remanding him to CBI custody till August 26 in the INX Media case.

Mr. Chidambaram has also challenged the arrest warrant issued against him by the trial court.

The senior Congress leader said the trial court had passed the order of his arrest without application of mind and without considering that the Supreme Court was already seized of the matter.

"It is submitted that the conduct of the respondent (CBI) is not only deplorable but, in fact, the action of the respondent clearly shows that the whole action was planned to overreach the authority and majesty of

this court, in which the special judge was misled and made to pass the impugned orders," the plea said.

He sought a stay till the apex court finally disposed of his appeals in the Supreme Court against the Delhi High Court order of August 20 refusing him protection from arrest.

The Congress leader said, "The detention/arrest of the petitioner and the subsequent remand of the petitioner to custody of respondent agency are a direct sequitur of the judgment dated August 20, 2019." He said his liberty was "illegally curtailed."

"The detention/arrest of the petitioner in pursuance of a non-bailable warrant issued on August 21, 2019 and his subsequent remand by the order dated August 22, 2019 are totally without jurisdiction and authority of law," the plea said.

## Akhilesh dissolves all SP units in U.P.

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
LUCKNOW

Attempting a course correction in the party after its Lok Sabha poll debacle, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday dissolved all its units in Uttar Pradesh, including the State executive and district and youth wings, sources said.

The party has retained State president Naresh Uttam, they said.

SP chief spokesman Rajendra Chowdhury said: "After the Lok Sabha election, party president Akhilesh Yadav has been meeting people and taking feedback from workers and office-bearers. After analysing all aspects, the party executives will be reorganised with new *josh* (enthusiasm) to take on the BJP."

The surprise development is being seen as an effort by the SP to recover its electoral base after its poor performance in the recent Lok Sabha polls when it won just five seats.

## Remonetise economy, says Rahul

He says government's own advisers have acknowledged the deep mess

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday asked the Centre to remonetise the economy by putting money in the hands of "the needy and not the greedy".

Mr. Gandhi said the government's own advisers had admitted that the economy was in a "deep mess".

He took to Twitter to say that his party had been cautioning about the worsening state of the economy for a

long time. "Government's own economic advisers have finally acknowledged what we cautioned for long – India's economy is in a deep mess. Now, accept our solution and remonetise the economy, by putting money back in the hands of the needy and not the greedy," Mr. Gandhi said.

At a press conference, Congress MP Manish Tewari quoted NITI Aayog Vice-Chairperson Rajiv Kumar as having said that "India's fi-

nancial sector has not faced such a crisis in the past seven decades." "This confession requires a slight amendment as it is not just the financial sector, (rather) it is the Indian economy that is under stress," Mr. Tewari said.

**'Crisis all around'**

"The textile industry has been putting out advertisements on a daily basis now for the past one week explaining that this is perhaps the worst period which the

textile industry has seen in the past seven decades. The tea industry is facing unprecedented crisis... the crisis in the automobile sector is well documented," the former Union Minister said.

Subsequently, reacting to the measures announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Mr. Tewari said, "A structural problem bedevils the fundamentals of Indian economy because of lag effect of demonetisation and GST."

## Akhara quizzed on rights to Ayodhya site

SC asks if it can differ from the deity's

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked Nirmohi Akhara whether it can have rights on the Ramjanmabhoomi at variance with or independent of the rights of Ayodhya's infant deity.

The Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi was responding to submissions made by Nirmohi Akhara that it was the shebait of the deity, entrusted to protect the interests of the infant Ram Lalla.

Nirmohi Akhara was given one-third possession of the disputed land by the Allahabad High Court in September 2010. The court pointed out that the Akhara's claim in the apex court for exclusive possession of the disputed land was at cross-purposes with the deity's separate suit for exclusive title over the Ramjanmabhoomi. The Bench said the Akhara has no independent claim. If the suit of the deity for the land is dismissed, the shebait's claim does not survive. "Claim of the shebait can never be adverse to the deity. But if you are contesting suit five (suit filed by the deity for title), then you are going against the title of the deity. So, as a shebait, you are asking to dismiss the suit of the deity," Justice Chandrachud said.

Over the past 10 days of arguments, lawyers for the Ayodhya deity have been

## Judge's plea for protection taken up

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Uttar Pradesh government to respond to a request made by CBI judge S.K. Yadav, who is trying the Babri Masjid demolition cases against senior BJP leaders, for protection. In a brief hearing, a Bench led by Justice Rohinton Nariman observed that the judge's concern about his safety was valid.

contending that the disputed Ramjanmabhoomi is itself a deity and could not have been partitioned.

Senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan, for the deity, had said if there was once a temple on the Ramjanmabhoomi and people were worshipping there as the birthplace, nobody could possibly claim ownership by adverse possession. He had said on Wednesday that the deity was a perpetual minor. The property of a minor cannot be dealt with, sold or alienated. He had questioned how the Allahabad High Court, in its verdict in September 2010, could have handed over the property of the minor Ayodhya deity to others.

## Friendly fire downed IAF copter: probe

Four officers, including Group Captain, held responsible for crash in J&K in Feb.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

An Mi-17 helicopter of the Indian Air Force, which crashed in Kashmir in February as an aerial engagement was on with the Pakistan, was shot down by friendly fire, an inquiry has confirmed.

At least four officers, including a Group Captain, were found responsible for the crash, defence sources said on Friday.

The IAF had ordered a Court of Inquiry (CoI) to investigate the crash, which killed six personnel and one civilian on the ground.

The Mi-17 was shot down by the Israeli-origin ground-based Spyder surface-to-air missile system of the IAF.

The CoI examined the



Six personnel and a civilian were killed in the Mi-17 chopper crash in Kashmir's Budgam on February 27. • NISSAR AHMAD

sector, the Mi-17 crashed in Budgam shortly after take-off from Srinagar.

Preliminary findings had found several procedural violations surrounding the crash. Top among them is that the Identification of Friend or Foe (IFF), a transponder-based identification system that communicates with radars, was switched off. Due to this, in the middle of the air battle over the skies close by, the Mi-17 was mistaken to be that of the adversary. Apart from the IFF systems, there are designated air corridors for friendly aircraft to fly and some areas considered sensitive are designated as weapons free, meaning none can fly there and air defences are authorised to shoot violators.

role of various people involved, including those controlling the air defence system when the helicopter was hit by a surface-to-air missile, sources said and added that the quantum of punishment would be determined by the IAF based on the recommendations of the CoI.

On the morning of February 27, as jets of India and Pakistan were engaged in a dogfight over the Naushera



FATF group ‘blacklists’ Pakistan

Task force’s regional panel says too few safeguards exist against terror financing

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI
Pakistan has been placed on the lowest rung, or “black-list”, of the Financial Action Task Force’s Asia Pacific Group (APG) for non-compliance and non-enforcement of safeguards against terror financing and money laundering.

The APG, one of nine regional affiliates of the FATF, met in Canberra from August 18 to 23 to discuss a five-year review of the Mutual Evaluation Report (MER) for Pakistan, and decided to place it among countries requiring “enhanced, expedited follow-up”.

Quarterly reporting
While the placing does not bring any new punitive measures on Pakistan, it will mean quarterly reporting to the group on improvement in its financial safeguards. While the APG’s final report will be published in October, the group said in a statement that it had “adopt-

Status downgrade
The Asia Pacific Group of the Financial Action Task Force met in Canberra from August 18 to 23
The placing of Pakistan on the lowest rung does not bring punitive measures but the country will have to send quarterly reports on safeguards against terror financing
The regional group will present its recommendation at the Paris plenary of the FATF in October
Pakistan says the term ‘blacklist’ is incorrect

ed a number of follow-up reports for APG members and for joint APG/FATF members and also agreed on revised evaluation procedures for the coming year reflecting recent changes to global procedures”. Countries under review during the current session included China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, China, Pakistan, the Philippines and the Solomon Islands. The APG process is one of three review processes that Pakistan faces in the next few months. On September 5, the APG will meet again, to take forward the main 15-month process of Pakistan’s FATF evaluation, which will present its recommendations for the FATF plenary session in Paris from October 18 to 23. At present, Pakistan is on the “greylist” of the FATF, a common group for countries that are termed “high risk and non-cooperative jurisdictions”. The Paris plenary will decide whether to remove Pakistan from the greylist, continue the listing, or

downgrade it to a blacklist of non-cooperative countries. Officials said the downgrade might not occur, given that any three countries in the FATF can veto it, and Pakistan is likely to secure the backing of China, Turkey and Malaysia. However, the APG decision on Friday would make it difficult for Pakistan to extricate itself from the greylist.

‘Wrong terminology’
In a statement, Pakistan’s Finance Ministry accepted that it had been placed in the enhanced follow-up, which requires it to report on a quarterly basis, but said that the term “blacklist” did not apply to the APG process, calling the terminology “incorrect and baseless”. Pakistani officials said that since the APG process only looked at Pakistan’s actions till October 2018, it did not represent the decisions taken in the past year, which will be considered by the next two reviews.

Corruption, nepotism reined in: PM

‘People’s mandate was given not just to run government but to build a new India’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PARIS
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the resounding mandate given to the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls was for building a “new India”, and corruption, nepotism, loot of people’s money, and terrorism had been reined in like never before.

Addressing the Indian community at the UNESCO headquarters here, Mr. Modi talked about “major decisions” – such as the law against triple talaq – taken by his government in its second term.

In a veiled reference to the suspension of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Modi said, “There is no scope for ‘temporary’ in India. You would have seen that a country of 1.25 billion people, the land of Mahatma Gandhi, Gautam Buddha, Ram, Krishna, took 70 years to remove what was temporary. To remove temporary, it took 70 years, I don’t know



Warm greeting: French President Emmanuel Macron welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday. • AP

whether I should laugh or cry... Reform, perform, and transform and with permanent systems, the country is moving forward to achieve its goal.” Mr. Modi, who was in France on the first leg of his three-nation tour, said there had been a number of constructive changes in the past

five years. “India is racing ahead not because of Modi... it is because of the stamp of approval that the people of India have given in the form of their votes,” the Prime Minister said, amid loud cries of “Modi hai toh mumkin hai (it is possible if Modi is there)” from the crowd. Mr. Modi’s comments on

corruption assume significance as they come two days after the high-profile arrest of senior Congress leader and former Union finance minister P. Chidambaram by the CBI in a money laundering case, evoking a strong reaction from opposition parties which accused the Centre of misusing probe agencies for “political vendetta”. “Inspired by the mantra of clear policy and right direction, several major decisions have been taken by the government,” he said. Mr. Modi also said that India has embarked upon a journey of hope and aspirations, and with the collective efforts of its people, the country was moving ahead at a fast pace on the path of development. “Friendship between India and France is based on strong ideals. The character of both nations was built on the common values of liberty, equality and fraternity,” he said.



Show of anger: Youth protesting in Srinagar on Friday against the dilution of Article 370. • AP

Opposition team likely to leave for Srinagar today

Left parties, DMK and RJD attend strategy meeting

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI
A joint Opposition delegation is likely to leave for Srinagar on Saturday, a day after they held a protest rally at Jantar Mantar in the capital to demand the immediate release of political leaders detained in Kashmir. Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi is expected to be part of the delegation along with senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad. The delegation is expected to include CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI general secretary D. Raja, DMK’s Tiruchi Siva, Trinamool Congress’ Dinesh

Trivedi and RJD’s Manoj Jha. The Nationalist Congress Party, which did not participate in Thursday’s rally, is also expected to be part of the delegation. It remains to be seen if the delegation will be allowed to step out of the Srinagar airport as the administration so far has not allowed political leaders to visit J&K. On Friday morning, some Opposition leaders met at Mr. Azad’s office in Parliament to discuss their strategy. The meeting was attended by Left parties, the DMK and the RJD. Responding to Mr. Gandhi’s comments criticising the communications blackout and arrest of political leadership of the State, J&K Governor Satyapal Malik had offered to facilitate his visit to the State. In response to this invitation, Mr. Gandhi tweeted, “A delegation of opposition leaders & I will take you up on your gracious invitation to visit J&K and Ladakh. We won’t need an aircraft but please ensure us the freedom to travel & meet the people, mainstream leaders and our soldiers stationed over there.” Mr. Malik had backtracked on his invitation. “Respecting Mr. Malik’s invite we want to visit the State and see for ourselves the situation and if possible meet the detained leaders,” a top Opposition leader said.

IN BRIEF



Kashmir's Centaur Hotel is now a subsidiary jail
SRINAGAR
A local court has designated the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre's (SKICC) Centaur Hotel as a subsidiary jail to pave the way for the meeting of relatives with around 50 mainstream leaders detained there since the August 5 decision to revoke J&K's special status.

Roads to UN office sealed to block protest
SRINAGAR
Stringent security restrictions were reimposed in Kashmir valley, especially around the office of the United Nations (UN) in Srinagar, on Friday amid the reports of separatists' planning a protest march towards it. Spools of concertina wires and iron barricades blocked all the three roads leading to the UN office in Srinagar's Sonwar area.

Go for bilateral solution, says U.K.

‘We don't seek to mediate on Kashmir’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The United Kingdom on Friday supported a bilaterally reached solution for the Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan. A statement from the British High Commission stated that London expected restraint to resolve the current situation in the Valley. The statement said that London did not campaign for the closed session of the UN Security Council of August 16. Long-held position
“The U.K. did not call for this session or support a formal [Security] Council statement, and we have longstanding positions that this dispute should be resolved bilaterally between the countries concerned. Neither do we seek to mediate,” said a spokesperson of the British High Commission.



The statement came days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi called his counterpart, Boris Johnson, who regretted that an anti-India protest was organised in London on August 15 by a large crowd outside the Indian High Commission. “We continue to call for restraint and action to address current concerns, and welcome efforts to do so as soon as possible,” the statement said.

भारत सरकार, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (इसरो) / INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION [ISRO]
समानव अंतरिक्ष उड़ान केंद्र / HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE, बेंगलूरु / BENGALURU
विज्ञा.सं. एच.एस.एफ.सी./01/भर्ती/2019 दिनांक 24/08/2019 / ADVERTISEMENT NO. HSFC/01/RMT/2019, DATED 24/08/2019
समानव अंतरिक्ष उड़ान केंद्र (एच.एस.एफ.सी.), जो फिलहाल अस्थाई रूप से इसरो मुख्यालय, बेंगलूरु में स्थित है, जिसे बाद में, कर्नाटक में कहीं भी स्थाई परिसर में स्थापित किया जाएगा, निम्नलिखित अस्थाई पद, जिनके अनिश्चित काल तक जारी रहने की संभावना है, के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है।
Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC), located temporarily in the ISRO Headquarters campus, Bengaluru and which will be subsequently relocated to a permanent campus anywhere in Karnataka, invites on-line applications for the following temporary posts, which are likely to be continued indefinitely.
पद कोड Post Code, विषय / क्षेत्र Discipline/Field, रिक्ति की संख्या No. of Vacancy(ies), आरक्षण ब्यौरा Reservation Details, अनिवार्य न्यूनतम अर्हता Essential minimum qualification, चयन का माध्यम Mode of Selection
पद का नाम / Name of the Post : तकनीशियन-बी / Technician-B
TE01 फिटर / Fitter, 20, (अना-10, अ.पि.व.-05, अ.जा.-02, अ.ज.जा.-02, ई.डब्ल्यू.एस.-01) (UR-10, OBC-05, SC-02, ST-02, EWS-01) (कुल रिक्तियों में से, 01 पद पी.डब्ल्यू.बी.डी.-एच.एच. हेतु आरक्षित है) Out of total vacancies, 01 post is reserved for PWBD – HH], एस.एस.एल.सी./एस.एस.सी./मैट्रिक उत्तीर्ण + एन.सी.बी.टी. से फिटर ट्रेड में आई.टी.आई. / एन.टी.सी./ एन.ए.सी. SSLC/SSC/Matriculation Pass + ITI /NTC / NAC in Fitter trade from NCVT. लिखित परीक्षा एवं कौशल परीक्षा
TE02 इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मेकेनिक Electronic Mechanic, 15, (अना-05, अ.पि.व.- 04, अ.जा.- 03, अ.ज.जा.- 01, ई.डब्ल्यू.एस.- 02) (UR-05, OBC-04, SC-03, ST-01, EWS-02), एस.एस.एल.सी./एस.एस.सी./मैट्रिक उत्तीर्ण + एन.सी.बी.टी. से इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मेकेनिक ट्रेड में आई.टी.आई./एन.टी.सी./ एन.ए.सी. SSLC/SSC/Matriculation Pass + ITI / NTC/NAC in Electronic Mechanic trade from NCVT. परीक्षा (पाठ्यक्रम आधारित)
TE03 प्लंबर Plumber, 02, (अना-01, अ.पि.व.- 01) (UR -01, OBC-01), एस.एस.एल.सी./एस.एस.सी./मैट्रिक उत्तीर्ण + एन.सी.बी.टी. से प्लंबर ट्रेड में आई.टी.आई./एन.टी.सी./एन.ए.सी. SSLC/SSC/Matriculation Pass + ITI/NTC/NAC in Plumber trade from NCVT. Written
TE04 वेल्डर Welder, 01, (अना-01) (UR -01), एस.एस.एल.सी./एस.एस.सी./मैट्रिक उत्तीर्ण + एन.सी.बी.टी. से वेल्डर ट्रेड में आई.टी.आई./एन.टी.सी./एन.ए.सी. SSLC/SSC/Matriculation Pass + ITI/NTC/NAC in Welder trade from NCVT. Test and Skill Test
TE05 मेकेनिस्ट Machinist, 01, (अ.पि.व.- 01) (OBC-01), एस.एस.एल.सी./एस.एस.सी./मैट्रिक उत्तीर्ण + एन.सी.बी.टी. से मेकेनिस्ट ट्रेड में आई.टी.आई./एन.टी.सी./एन.ए.सी. SSLC/SSC/Matriculation Pass + ITI/NTC/NAC in Machinist trade from NCVT. (Curriculum based)
पद का नाम / Name of the Post : नक्शानवीज-बी / Draughtsman-B
DM01 नक्शानवीज-मेकेनिकल Draughtsman - Mechanical, 10, (अना-03, अ.पि.व.-02, अ.जा.-03, ई.डब्ल्यू.एस.-02) / (UR-03, OBC-02, SC-03, EWS-02) कुल रिक्तियों में से, 01 पद पी.डब्ल्यू.बी.डी.-ओ.एच. हेतु आरक्षित है / Out of total vacancies, 01 post is reserved for PWD – OH (कार्य हेतु उपयुक्त दिव्यांग का वर्ग – एक पैर – ओ.एल.; दोनों पैर-बी.एल./Categories of Disabled suitable for the Job – One Leg-OL; Both Leg-BL)], एस.एस.एल.सी./एस.एस.सी./मैट्रिक उत्तीर्ण + एन.सी.बी.टी. से नक्शानवीज- मेकेनिकल ट्रेड में आई.टी.आई./एन.टी.सी./ एन.ए.सी. SSLC/SSC/Matriculation Pass + ITI/NTC/NAC in Draughtsman Mechanical trade from NCVT. लिखित परीक्षा एवं कौशल परीक्षा (पाठ्यक्रम आधारित)
DE01 नक्शानवीज-इलेक्ट्रिकल Draughtsman - Electrical, 02, (अना-02) (UR-02), एस.एस.एल.सी./एस.एस.सी./मैट्रिक उत्तीर्ण + एन.सी.बी.टी. से नक्शानवीज- इलेक्ट्रिकल ट्रेड में आई.टी.आई./एन.टी.सी./ एन.ए.सी. SSLC/SSC/Matriculation Pass + ITI/NTC/NAC in Draughtsman Electrical trade from NCVT. Written Test and Skill Test (Curriculum based)
(तकनीशियन-बी एवं नक्शानवीज-बी की कुल रिक्तियों में से 05 रिक्तियां भूतपूर्व सैनिक के लिए आरक्षित हैं / Out of total vacancies of Technician-B and Draughtsman-B, 05 vacancies are reserved for Ex-Serviceman)
पद का नाम / Name of the Post : तकनीकी सहायक / Technical Assistant
TA01 मेकेनिकल Mechanical, 20, (अना-10, अ.पि.व.-05, अ.जा.-03, अ.ज.जा.-01, ई.डब्ल्यू.एस.-01) (UR-10, OBC-05, SC-3, ST-1, EWS-1) कुल रिक्तियों में से, 01 पद पी.डब्ल्यू.बी.डी.-एच.एच. हेतु आरक्षित है / Out of total vacancies, 01 post is reserved for PWBD – HH], मान्यता प्राप्त राज्य बोर्ड से मेकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग में प्रथम श्रेणी में डिप्लोमा First Class Diploma in Mechanical Engineering from a recognized State Board. लिखित परीक्षा एवं कौशल परीक्षा (पाठ्यक्रम आधारित)
TA02 इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स Electronics, 12, (अना-05, अ.पि.व.-03, अ.जा.-02, अ.ज.जा.-01, ई.डब्ल्यू.एस.-01) (UR-05, OBC-03, SC-02, ST-01, EWS-01), मान्यता प्राप्त राज्य बोर्ड से इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स इंजीनियरिंग में प्रथम श्रेणी में डिप्लोमा First Class Diploma in Electronics Engineering from a recognized State Board. Written Test and Skill Test
TA03 सिविल Civil, 03, (अना-01, अ.पि.व.-01, ई.डब्ल्यू.एस.-01) (UR-01, OBC-01, EWS-01), मान्यता प्राप्त राज्य बोर्ड से सिविल इंजीनियरिंग में प्रथम श्रेणी में डिप्लोमा First Class Diploma in Civil Engineering from a recognized State Board. (Curriculum based)
उपयोग की गई संक्षिप्ति / ABBREVIATIONS USED: अना-अनारक्षित; अ.पि.व.-अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग; अ.जा.- अनुसूचित जाति; अ.ज.जा.-अनुसूचित जन जाति; पी.डब्ल्यू.बी.डी.- (दिव्यांग जन जैसे ओ.एल.- शारीरिक विकलांगता; ओ.एल.- एक पैर; बी.एल.- दोनों पैर; एच.एच.- श्रृंखला विकलांगता)। विकलांगता के अंतर्गत नियुक्त अभ्यर्थियों को संबंधित वर्ग अर्थात अ.जा./ अ.ज.जा./ अ.पि.व./ अना. ई.डब्ल्यू.एस. हेतु निर्दिष्ट / आरक्षित रिक्ति के प्रति समायोजित किया जाएगा। / UR – Unreserved; OBC – Other Backward Class; SC – Scheduled Caste; ST – Scheduled Tribe; PWBD – Person With Benchmark Disabilities [i.e. OH – Orthopedically Handicapped; OL – One leg; BL – Both leg; HH – Hearing Impaired] . The candidates appointed under PWBD will be adjusted against the vacancy earmarked/ reserved for respective categories i.e. SC/ST/OBC/UR/EWS.
आयु सीमा / Age Limit: सभी पदों हेतु दिनांक 13.09.2019 को 18-35 वर्ष / For all the above posts: 18 -35 years as on 13.09.2019. (अ.जा. एवं अ.ज.जा. के अभ्यर्थियों हेतु 40 वर्ष तथा अ.पि.व. के अभ्यर्थियों हेतु 38 वर्ष, जहां भी संबंधित वर्ग के लिए पद आरक्षित हैं / For SC and ST Candidates 40 Years and for OBC candidates 38 Years, where posts are reserved in respective categories).
भूतपूर्व सैनिक: दिव्यांग जन (पी.डब्ल्यू.बी.डी.); विधवा; तलाकशुदा महिला एवं कानूनी तौर पर अपने पति से अलग हुई महिला और जिसने पुनर्विवाह न किया हो भारत सरकार के आदेशानुसार आयु में छूट के हकदार हैं। Ex-servicemen: Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PWBD); Widows; Divorced Women and Women judicially separated from their husbands and who are not remarried are eligible for age relaxation as per extant Govt. of India orders.
आवेदन केवल ऑनलाइन ही प्राप्त किए जाएंगे। इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी विस्तृत सूचना के लिए और आवेदन प्रपत्र भरने हेतु वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in देखें। इस हेतु ऑन-लाइन भर्ती पोर्टल 24/08/2019 से 13/09/2019 तक उपलब्ध रहेगा। Applications will be received ONLY THROUGH ON-LINE. Interested candidates may visit the website www.isro.gov.in for detailed information and filling-up on-line application form. For this purpose, the on-line recruitment portal will be available from 24/08/2019 to 13/09/2019.



ELSEWHERE



**Symmetric response to U.S. missile test: Putin**  
MOSCOW  
Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday he has ordered the military to prepare a "symmetric response" after Washington tested a formerly banned missile. Mr. Putin said he had ordered an analysis of "the level of threat" for our country created by the U.S. action. **AFP**

**Four dead, 33 missing after Indonesia ferry fire**  
JAKARTA  
At least four people died and nearly three dozen were missing after a passenger ferry went up in flames off Indonesia's Java island, authorities said on Friday. The boat started from Indonesia's Surabaya and was headed to Balikpapan on Borneo island with some 277 people aboard when it caught fire Thursday evening. **AFP**

**Russia launches floating nuclear reactor in Arctic**  
MOSCOW  
Russia launched the world's first floating nuclear reactor on Friday, sending it on an epic journey across the Arctic, despite environmentalists warning of a "Chernobyl on ice." Loaded with nuclear fuel, the *Akademik Lomonosov* with a crew of 69 left the port of Murmansk to begin its 5,000 km voyage to Pevek in Siberia. **AFP**

**S. Korea to share intel with Japan through U.S.**  
SEOUL  
South Korea said on Friday it will share military intelligence with Japan through the U.S., a day after it terminated a pact that enabled the two U.S. allies to exchange such information directly. A series of tit-for-tat measures have brought relations between Seoul and Tokyo to their lowest point in years. **AFP**

With Amazon forest on fire, Brazil faces global backlash

EU is 'deeply worried'; Germany, Norway may shut down a conservation initiative

MANUELA ANDREONI  
LETÍCIA CASADO  
RIO DE JANEIRO

As dozens of fires scorched large swaths of the Amazon, the Brazilian government has struggled to contain growing global outrage over its environmental policies, which have paved the way for runaway deforestation of the world's largest rainforest.

The fires, many intentionally set, are spreading as Germany and Norway appear to be on the brink of shutting down a \$1.2 billion conservation initiative for the Amazon.

Concern over the environmental policies of President Jair Bolsonaro, which have prioritised the interests of industries that want greater access to protected lands, has also put in jeopardy a trade agreement the EU and a handful of South American nations struck in June, following decades of negotiations.

"The ongoing forest fires in Brazil are deeply worrying," the European Commission said in a statement on Thursday. "Forests are our lungs and life support systems."

Photos of the fires have been shared by NASA, politicians and celebrities this week, setting off a call on social media to #PrayForAmazon. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio called on his nearly 34 million Instagram followers to become more environmentally conscious in a post warning that "the lungs of the Earth are in flames".

The Bolsonaro administration has reacted with indignation to the outrage, claiming without presenting any evidence that NGOs



Global concern: Smoke billows from a fire in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil. **REUTERS**

could have started the fires to undermine the far-right President.

In the northern state of Rorônia, which has been among the most affected by the fires, indigenous leaders described watching wild animals dashing out of areas of the forest as the flames approached.

Covered in smoke

"We saw wild pigs, tapirs, armadillos, anteaters, snakes in larger numbers than we are used to," said Adriano Karipuna, a leader in the Karipuna indigenous community, whose territory has been affected by fires. "We saw the forest covered in smoke, and the sky darkened. Our eyes became red due to the smoke."

Mr. Karipuna said loggers are striding into protected areas, emboldened by Mr. Bolsonaro's views that the legal protections granted to indigenous lands are an unreasonable impediment to profiting from the Amazon's resources.

Senior government officials in Brazil took aim on Thursday at international news coverage and criticism from Western governments, calling their characterisation of the fires intentionally misleading.

"There's a reason why Brazil has the best environmental credentials and the best preserved forests," Felipe Martins, a foreign policy adviser to Mr. Bolsonaro, wrote in a series of messages on Twitter. "We know how to protect and take care of what is ours."

Brazil has strict environmental laws and regulations, but they are often violated with impunity. Forest fires are common in Brazil during this time of the year. But the number now raging in the Amazon is unusually high. Data released by Brazil's National Institute for Space Research shows that from January to July, fires had consumed 4.6 million acres of the Brazilian Amazon, a 62% increase compared to last year. **NY TIMES**

Bolsonaro 'lied' on climate at G-20: France

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BIARRITZ

French President Emmanuel Macron believes his Brazilian counterpart Jair Bolsonaro lied to him on Brazil's stance on climate change, and France will now block a trade deal between the EU and South American nations.

"Given the attitude of Brazil over the last weeks, the President can only conclude that President Bolsonaro lied to him at the Osaka (G20) summit (in June)," a French Presidential official said on Friday.

Meanwhile, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the Amazon wildfires amount to "acute emergency" and called upon world leaders to discuss the issue when they meet at this weekend's G7 summit.

China announces new tariffs on \$75 bn worth U.S. imports

Trump vows quick response, tells companies to find 'alternative'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIJING

China announced on Friday it will hit U.S. imports worth \$75 billion with new tariffs as retaliation for Washington's planned tariff hikes, further intensifying the pair's bruising trade war.

The punitive tariffs of 5 to 10% will apply to 5,078 items, including agricultural products such as soybeans, crude oil and small aircraft, from the U.S., starting September 1 and December 15, China's State Council Tariff Commission Office said.

Beijing also announced it will reimpose a 25% tariff on U.S. automobiles and a 5% tariff on auto parts, also starting December 15. It had earlier this year lifted tariffs on American cars and automobile parts as a goodwill measure while trade talks were under way.

'Great opportunity'

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday pledged a quick response to the new round of tariffs, and told American firms to find an



The punitive tariffs of 5 to 10% will apply to 5,078 U.S. products. **AP**

"alternative" to making their products in China.

"I will be responding to China's Tariffs this afternoon," Mr. Trump said in a tweet. "This is a GREAT opportunity for the U.S."

"Our great American companies are hereby ordered to immediately start looking for an alternative to China, including bringing your firms HOME and making your products in the U.S.A."

It is unclear under what authority Mr. Trump could demand private companies to alter their production.

"Our Country has lost, stupidly, Trillions of Dollars with China over many years.

They have stolen our Intellectual Property at a rate of Hundreds of Billions of Dollars a year, & they want to continue. I won't let that happen!" Mr. Trump wrote.

Mr. Trump has imposed steep tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese goods, with a further \$300 billion in imports targeted for new duties in two more rounds, effective from September 1 and December 15.

Meanwhile, China has hit back with duties on around \$110 billion of U.S. goods – or nearly all of the \$120 billion worth of American goods it imported last year.

China's Commerce Ministry said it will hit American frozen lobster, frozen chicken feet, peanut butter and 914 other goods with new 10% punitive tariffs starting September 1.

The trade friction has already slowed U.S. growth, and undercut the global economy, so the threat of a deterioration sent stock markets falling sharply. The Dow lost more than 500 points from its peak.

Trump likens Fed chief to 'enemy' Xi

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump reacted furiously on Friday after Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell spoke about the trade war with China and economic risks to the U.S., asking whether his appointee to the U.S. central bank was a greater "enemy" than China's leader Xi Jinping.

"As usual, the Fed did NOTHING! It is incredible that they can 'speak' with-

out knowing or asking what I am doing, which will be announced shortly," Mr. Trump wrote on Twitter. "We have a very strong dollar and a very weak Fed. I will work 'brilliantly' with both, and the U.S. will do great."

"My only question is, who is our bigger enemy, Jay Powell or Chairman Xi?"

Mr. Trump has repeatedly accused the Fed of keeping monetary policy too tight, which he says has boosted

the value of the dollar and undercut economic growth.

He has been pressuring the Fed to lower interest rates aggressively, arguing that the dollar's strength is undermining the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers.

Mr. Powell stopped short of committing to further rate cuts. He characterised the U.S. economy as in a "favorable place" but facing "significant" risks, especially from trade war with China.

David Koch, billionaire donor to conservative causes, dies

He and his brother were a force behind Republican politics

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

David Koch, a billionaire American libertarian and influential donor to conservative causes, has died at age 79 after a long battle with cancer, his older brother Charles said on Friday.

Mr. Koch retired last year as executive vice president of Koch Industries, the conglomerate he co-owned with Mr. Charles and built into the second largest family-owned company in the U.S.

"He believed he had a responsibility to a world that had given him so many opportunities to succeed," Mr. Charles said in a statement.



David Koch

Both brothers were a force behind the scenes in Republican politics, giving heavily to candidates and causes that matched their conservative economic positions.

But Mr. David was socially liberal – a supporter of abortion rights and same sex marriage as well as a non-interventionist foreign policy.

Mr. David ran as the Libertarian Party's Vice Presidential candidate in 1980, but later joined Republican party. He was remembered as an important financial contributor to cultural organisations and medical research.

He was diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer 27 years ago but through "a combination of brilliant doctors, state-of-the-art medications and his own stubbornness kept the cancer at bay," Mr. Charles said.

Israel hits weapons depot in Iraq

The base was being used by Iran to move weapons to Syria, officials said

ALISSA J. RUBIN  
RONEN BERGMAN

Israel has carried out an airstrike on a weapons depot in Iraq that officials said was being used by Iran to move weapons to Syria, an attack that could destabilise Iraq and thrust it deeper into the conflict between the United States and Iran.

The attack, believed to be the first Israeli bombing in Iraq in nearly four decades, represents an expansion of the military campaign Israel has carried out against Iranian targets in Syria.

The Israeli attack last month was one of several recent attacks on weapons storage facilities controlled by Iraqi militias with ties to Iran. It was not clear who



An explosion at a military base in Baghdad. **AP/FILE**

carried out the other attacks, which have set Iraq on edge as it struggles to recover from nearly 40 years of war and instability.

Responding to the attacks on Thursday, Iraq's National Security Adviser, Falih al-

Fayadh, said that Iraq wanted to avoid taking sides in any struggle between Iran and other countries and being "pushed into a war."

"The Iraqi government and especially its security agencies and armed forces

will take all measures necessary to protect Iraq and its people and to deter any attempts at destabilisation," he said.

He said the government had yet to determine who was behind the attacks.

A senior West Asian intelligence official said that Israel had bombed a base north of Baghdad on July 19.

Two senior U.S. officials, however, said that Israel had carried out several strikes in recent days on munitions storehouses for Iranian-backed groups in Iraq.

The Israeli military refused to comment on the attacks but PM Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday said, "Iran doesn't have immunity anywhere." **NY TIMES**

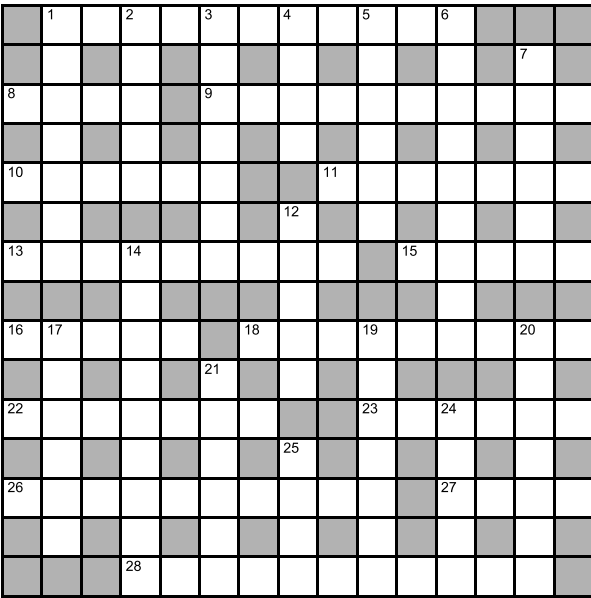
Human chain protests in Hong Kong

REUTERS  
HONG KONG

Thousands of Hong Kong protesters joined hands to form human chains on Friday in a peaceful protest, with almost three months of anti-government demonstrations showing no sign of let-up.

Demonstrators linked hands across districts as others held up banners thanking other nations for supporting "freedom and democracy" in Hong Kong. Their move echoed the protest on August 23, 1989, when about 2 million Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians joined arms across to protest against Soviet rule, in what became known as "Baltic Chain".

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12713



ACROSS

- 1 Ideas new to agnostic individuals at first (11)
- 8 A firm about to get membership (4)
- 9 Classify, say, as erotic/vulgar films (10)
- 10 Manage to live outside one's country (6)

- 11 Winter traveller goes around North America, more treacherous (7)
- 13 Chaos after female is sent out for tests initially – for a bruise (9)
- 15 Away from 4th after university is off (5)
- 16 Some bad donut with topping perhaps (3-2)
- 18 Young home supporter with a hat on (9)
- 22 Fancy car parked next to a building got ruined (7)
- 23 Crude line, say (6)
- 26 Inside a den hunter built (10)
- 27 John's close to becoming a crazy person (4)
- 28 Rare, invaluable and primarily unattainable (11)

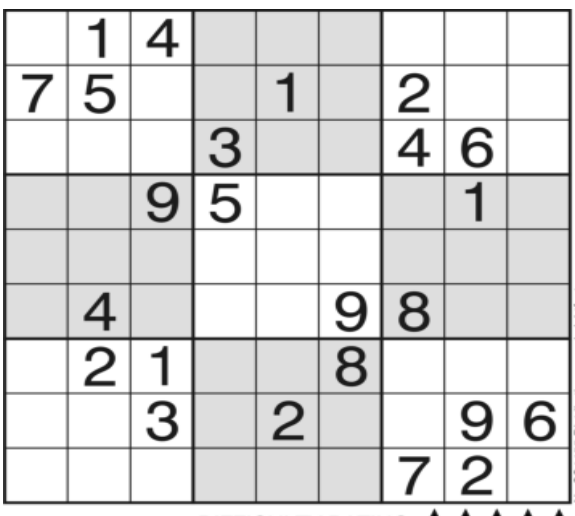
DOWN

- 1 Sad ending in one heroic farewell (7)
- 2 Had enough to survive and progressed (3,2)

(set by Vulcan)

- 3 Procedure to fix taps, we hear (7)
- 4 Kept a target protected for so long (2-2)
- 5 Groans, burning in stomach and bladder! (6)
- 6 Begin to erase (6,3)
- 7 Recognise one that's at the top and rising (6)
- 12 Certain limit (5)
- 14 Collection of paintings essentially by a French artist (9)
- 17 Love to be without love, basically that's bold (6)
- 19 A large firm with bottomless pocket to make beer! (7)
- 20 Student is certain to become graceful (7)
- 21 Hearing mostly affected, a condition (6)
- 24 Short excuse daughter inserted spontaneously (2-3)
- 25 A bit upset with the information (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12712								
C	A	T	F	I	S	H	E	S
A	R	M	U	A	N	O		
P	L	E	O	N	A	S	M	P
V	O	G	E	P	E	S		
K	E	E	P	O	U	R	S	H
A	B	O	R	T	S	A	R	D
O	R	C	H	A	R	D	S	
N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	
R	F	K	V	N	O	H		
C	I	N	E	M	A			
A	R	R	U	A	P			
G	N	U	S	D	I	S	C	I

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku								
9	3	4	2	6	1	7	8	5
2	5	6	7	9	8	1	4	3
7	8	1	3	4	5	6	9	2
1	2	7	5	8	3	4	6	9
6	9	5	1	7	4	3	2	8
8	4	3	9	2	6	5	7	1
3	7	8	4	1	2	9	5	6
5	6	9	8	3	7	2	1	4
4	1	2	6	5	9	8	3	7

FAITH

Krishna Trishna

Sage Suka's narration of Krishna avatar in the Bhagavata Purana has captured the hearts of countless jivatmas and continues to inspire many to pursue the path of bhakti as a means to salvation. Bhakti is translated as Krishna Trishna in the one pointed yearning for Krishna that the Gopis evince. Uddhava who is himself a great Krishna devotee admits that the Gopis score far above him in their unalloyed and selfless love to Krishna, pointed out Sri Dushyanth Sridhar in a discourse. Uddhava even wishes that he should be born as a bower or creeper or blade of grass in Brindavan in the midst of the pada dhuli of the Gopis whose songs in praise of the Lord can purify the three worlds.

The Upanishads and Vedanta talk of many vidyas, upasanas, etc that can be learnt and practised to attain salvation which is after all the goal of human existence. Though many consciously strive to get out of samsara, the path is arduous and in the Gita it is shown that perhaps one among innumerable jivatmas in the course of countless births may get liberated. But the Gopis show that all the worldly attainments such as birth, status, scholarship, etc are of no consequence and ultimately it is the intense longing for union with Krishna who is the Supreme Being incarnate that matters. Love of God works itself in one's inner being and brings about spiritual realisation gradually.

A Gopi who is prevented from meeting Krishna begins meditating on Him with such intensity that she transcends her physical state to attain the Lord at that instant itself. It is no wonder that Azhvars never tire of speaking of the glories of Krishna avatar and the Lord's Saulabhya that endears Him to all. Savouring and reliving every moment of Krishna leela easily establishes an immediate link to the Paramatma.



MARKET WATCH		
	23-08-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,701	0.63
US Dollar	71.66	0.21
Gold	38,995	0.06
Brent oil	58.65	-0.22

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	349.35	4.30
Asian Paints	1580.40	10.20
Axis Bank	663.90	2.75
Bajaj Auto	2749.15	4.90
Bajaj Finserv	6884.60	117.25
Bajaj Finance	3174.35	60.25
Bharti Airtel	356.40	3.65
BPCL	329.35	16.35
Britannia Ind	2466.65	25.90
Cipla	465.90	1.90
Coal India	188.00	7.15
Dr. Reddy's Lab	2541.25	-4.15
Eicher Motors	15383.45	-139.90
GAIL (India)	124.40	3.75
Grasim Ind	719.45	30.90
HCL Tech	1087.00	8.10
HDFC	2043.75	29.65
HDFC Bank	2162.70	-11.40
Hero MotoCorp	2640.20	13.95
Hindalco	180.25	3.70
Hind Unilever	1860.00	-12.10
Indiabulls HFL	467.85	17.30
ICICI Bank	395.40	-3.70
IndusInd Bank	1310.50	-25.15
Bharti Infratel	246.95	0.40
Infosys	802.20	6.50
Indian Oil Corp	122.80	5.00
ITC	236.10	-3.95
JSW Steel	220.65	3.65
Kotak Bank	1470.20	-8.05
L&T	1286.50	-7.75
M&M	533.25	21.45
Maruti Suzuki	6254.35	45.80
NTPC	118.50	3.75
ONGC	122.25	5.30
PowerGrid Corp	201.50	-1.25
Reliance Ind	1275.85	29.10
State Bank	271.10	2.55
Sun Pharma	427.80	13.25
Tata Motors	111.05	3.35
Tata Steel	345.25	11.55
TCS	2247.70	31.70
Tech Mahindra	683.85	1.10
Titan	1073.50	11.75
UltraTech Cement	3861.80	23.65
UPL	547.25	29.20
Vedanta	137.40	8.35
Wipro	251.40	-0.65
YES Bank	59.25	2.95
Zee Entertainment	351.15	22.20

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 23		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.46	71.78
Euro	79.09	79.45
British Pound	87.40	87.79
Japanese Yen (100)	67.13	67.43
Chinese Yuan	10.08	10.13
Swiss Franc	72.60	72.93
Singapore Dollar	51.47	51.71
Canadian Dollar	53.64	53.88
Malaysian Ringgit	17.04	17.14
Source: Indian Bank		

BULLION RATES CHENNAI		
August 23 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	48.2	(48.3)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3600	(3608)

## Upfront capital for PSBs to bolster loan growth

Move may release liquidity to the tune of ₹5 lakh crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The government's decision to provide capital to public sector banks (PSBs) upfront will give them 'growth capital' apart from meeting regulatory requirements, bankers said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday announced a host of measures to boost the slowing economy and assured that the Centre would provide ₹70,000 crore in capital to the PSBs – as announced in the Budget – upfront, which will release liquidity to the tune of ₹5 lakh crore. "This will benefit corporates, retail borrowers, MSME, small traders etc," she said in a presentation.

Many banks, which have reported their April-June earnings, saw their common equity tier-I capital depleted. The lenders will benefit as their capital levels will improve.

"Typically, the government releases capital at the end of the financial year. So, there was not much scope to boost loan growth. If the capital is released now, loan

# FM steps in to accelerate auto demand

Higher depreciation and Centre's move to replace old vehicles may act as booster shots

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday announced a slew of measures to boost demand in the auto sector as well as reduce any uncertainty that was dampening sentiments, including saying that the government will now replace old vehicles with new ones.

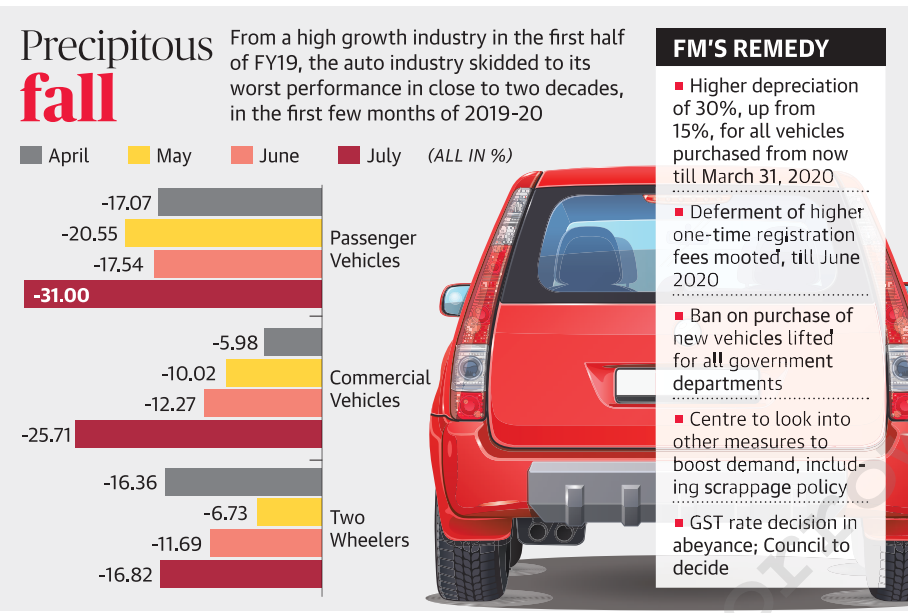
The most important of these is a higher depreciation of 30%, up from 15%, for all vehicles purchased from now till March 31, 2020.

Next is the deferment of the higher one-time registration fees, mooted by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), till June 2020.

### Draft notification

In July 2019, MoRTH had issued a draft notification that proposed to increase the registration charges for new IC engine powered vehicles to ₹5,000 from the current ₹600. This was met with intense resistance from the auto industry.

Ms. Sitharaman also announced that the govern-



ment will look into other measures to boost demand in the sector, including a scrappage policy.

"The government will lift the ban on the purchase of new vehicles to replace old vehicles by all the departments," Ms. Sitharaman said at a press conference. "The government will now buy new vehicles, and this will

serve to increase demand for the auto sector."

The Finance Minister, however, said that the Central Government cannot take a decision regarding the reduction of the Goods and Services Tax rate on automobiles as that was for the GST Council to decide. The next GST Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sep-

tember 20.

The government has also clarified that BS-IV compliant vehicles purchased till March 31, 2020 would be allowed to remain operational for the full period of their registration.

"She [FM] has shown remarkable willingness to listen to industries and to respond quickly and respond in

What FM has done for the automobile industry, is the best that could have been done

R.C. BHARGAVA  
Chairman, Maruti Suzuki

a practical manner," R.C. Bhargava, chairman of Maruti Suzuki, told *The Hindu*. "Besides, what she has done specifically for the automobile industry, is the best that could have been done, I believe.

"She has announced some changes which will have long-term and hugely beneficial effects for the economy, which will, in turn, benefit the auto sector also.

"The sentiment will change, I believe, particularly due to things like the government's decision to buy cars," Mr. Bhargava added. "That conveys the message that internal combustion (IC) cars will be bought by the government and not just electric cars.

"She has clarified that IC cars and electric are the same for the government, there is no discrimination."

## Move to decriminalise CSR violations welcomed

Companies can now utilise the funds in an effective way without any fear, says BSE MD and CEO

PIYUSH PANDEY MUMBAI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday announced that corporate social responsibility (CSR) violations would not be treated as criminal offences and would instead be a civil liability, in a move welcomed by India Inc.

"CSR spend and criminal proceedings on that [for violations] was a surprise to many when it was announced.

"Taking it back is a wel-

come move. It will allow the corporations to think and employ their CSR funds in an effective way without fear. This step has certainly given a boost to the morale of corporate India," Ashish Chauhan MD & CEO, BSE, told *The Hindu*.

"[The] Ministry of Corporate Affairs will review the sections in the Companies Act on CSR violations," said Ms. Sitharaman in her presentation.

When asked for com-

ments, Abhishek Lodha, MD, Lodha Group, said, "Job creators (business) will appreciate the steps taken on CSR and other measures. While the economy will take time to recover, the process will start from today. The important steps announced today will boost job creation and revive economic sentiment."

The government has provided companies, through revised orders, the time for completing on-going pro-

jects towards fulfilling their CSR obligations.

Mukund Rajan, chairman, ECube Investment Advisors, believes these are welcome steps to restore the confidence in the economy.

### Addressing risk

"With the fiscal space available to the government being limited, the private sector needs to be encouraged.

"The willingness to address the risk and cost of doing business, as is reflected

with the decision on CSR issue, is an important gesture in this context," he said.

Mahindra Group chairman Anand Mahindra tweeted that a willingness to re-look at policies was a display of strength, not weakness.

"Today's press conference by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will, I hope, mark the start of a new, interactive and interdependent relationship between the government and business," Mr. Mahindra tweeted.

## EMIs on new home, auto loans may get cheaper

Banks to link interest rates to repo

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Equated monthly instalments (EMI) on retail loans like home and auto loans are set to become cheaper as banks will now link such rates for fresh loans to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) repo rate as announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Union Bank of India, which announced the linking of home and auto loan rates to repo rate, shortly after the Finance Minister's interaction with the media, said that repo-linked rates will be much cheaper than existing interest rates which are linked to marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR).

### Union Bank

For example, Union Bank of India's repo-linked home loan rates for loans above ₹30 lakh up to ₹75 lakh will be 8.25%, which is 35 bps (basis points) lower than the existing rate.

"The home loan linked to repo rate provides 35 bps benefits over the existing home loan," Union Bank said in a statement.



Bankers said, going forward, term-loan products would also be linked to external benchmarks.

Similarly, repo rate-linked vehicle loans will be available at 8.6%, which is 40 bps cheaper than the existing vehicle loan rate.

SBI and Syndicate Bank have already linked their home loan rates to repo rate, while Bank of India, Allahabad Bank and Central Bank of India are expected to come out with similar schemes shortly.

Bankers said, going forward, corporate credit such as term loans and cash credit products would also be linked to external benchmarks like the repo rate.

## 'Development finance institution to fill infrastructure funding gap'

Banks do not have long-term funds for such projects

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The government's proposal to set up a development financial institution (DFI) is expected to solve the infrastructure financing needs of the country, since banks do not have the long-term funds to finance such projects, bankers said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a host of measures on Friday to boost economic growth that also included increasing capital flows and energising capital markets.

Commenting that there was a need to deepen bond markets, Ms. Sitharaman said, "In order to improve access to long-term finance, it is proposed to establish an organisation to provide credit enhancement for infrastructure and housing projects, particularly in the context of India now not having a development bank and also for the need for us to have a institutional mechanism. So, this will enhance debt flow toward such projects."

She said the name of the organisation will be dis-



**Spurring infra:** The government's move aims to improve access to long-term finance, says the Minister. •BHOJ GHOSH

closed in 'a day or two.' "Banks do not have long-term funds. The maturity of our liabilities is five years, on an average.

"So, funding infrastructure projects is difficult for us," said a top official from a public sector bank.

### Merger with banks

Over the years, some of the major development finance institutions were merged with their banking outfits such as ICICI and IDBI.

Reserve Bank of India had

to replace old vehicles with new ones at government entities will create demand from the government side.

The scrappage policy, which should be implemented by the end of this year, will create additional demand and all these measures will address the problem of slowdown in the auto industry," said Ambareesh Baliga, an independent analyst.

"Tata Motors welcomes the comprehensive set of actions taken by the government and believes the measures to improve liquidity-driven growth and reduce cost of ownership of the vehicles should help the industry get back on track," said Guenter Butschek, CEO and MD, Tata Motors.

"Affordability and availability of retail finance as well as finance for dealers, was a major concern and the announcements have adequately addressed these concerns," said Rajan Wadhwa, president, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers.

"Moreover, the linking of repo rate to interest rates charged for vehicle purchase would support lowering of EMIs for auto purchases, thereby boosting demand," he added.

ACMA, the apex body of India's auto component sector, welcomed the steps.

"We do hope the measures to improve liquidity and deferring of enhanced vehicle registration cost will revive ailing sales in the sector. The enhanced depreciation of 30% until March 2020 will motivate institutional sales. The removal of ban on purchase of new vehicles by the government will help reduce the current pile-up of inventory," said Ram Venkataramani, president ACMA.

## Will promote investment, push demand, says FIEO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The measures announced by the government will help in promoting investments, demand and ease of doing business, exporters' body FIEO said on Friday.

### Easing liquidity

The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) president Sharad Kumar Saraf said the release of funds to recapitalise public sector banks will go a long-way in easing liquidity, further giv-

ing the much-needed boost to the economy in such challenging times.

"The announcements made by the government are aimed at investment stimulus, demand stimulus, ease of doing business and recognition to wealth creators," the FIEO president said in a statement.

According to Mr. Saraf, simplifying the GST would further help the trade and industry overcome their problems of liquidity and capital requirements.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

The slew of measures announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to revive the economy has elicited positive reactions from the industry captains here.

Venu Srinivasan, CMD, TVS Motor Co., said that these measures were a welcome step. He felt that the Centre had set the right tone by announcing payment of pending GST refunds of MSMEs within 30 days and making available working

capital loans for industry and vehicle loans at lower rates, among other things.

"The language of the government is that they want to listen to you, businesses, particularly micro, small and medium industries (MSME). The government is sympathetic and empathetic to the economy. [The] Finance Minister's indication of further measures soon is a very, very positive step," he said

Queried on the reaction of the auto sector, he said that customers should have easy



Venu Srinivasan

access to money. "The announcement by the FM is in that direction. The government cannot cut tax. We

have to look at fiscal deficit. The government does not have that much space for a tax cut.

"If they are going to encourage loans to be given, then it will boost the confidence," he added.

### 'Demonstrates resolve'

"While there are indications of a global slowdown, this government has demonstrated its resolve to mitigate the impact of that in India through these measures. This is the stability and proactiveness

that industry wants," he added. On easing of the working capital availability to the industry, he said that basically it was a confidence-building measure.

"Everyone is confident that this government will act. These measures will provide the immediate relief that the industry was seeking. The promptness of this government's response is reassuring for not just industry, but for the common man as well because it's putting liquidity into the market and easing

the squeeze on the small and medium sector," he said.

Gopal Srinivasan, CMD, TVS Capital Funds, said that this was the real Budget speech for investors.

He was particularly pleased that foreign portfolio investors and angel tax got the much deserved attention.

Terming the announcements as a very good initiative, the Council for Leather Exports said it would lead to overall improvement of the economy.



# Govt. takes steps to ease ‘doing business’

Expedites payments and GST refunds for MSMEs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The government on Friday announced several decisions to ease doing business in India, including scrapping the angel tax for registered start-ups, expediting GST refunds for the MSME sector, as well as setting a time-bound window for the payment of delayed dues by public sector companies.

“In order to mitigate genuine difficulties of start-ups and their investors, it has been decided that the relevant provisions of Section 56 of the Income Tax Act, which is commonly called the angel tax, shall not be applicable to a start-up registered with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade,” Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, addressing a press conference to announce the decisions.

The angel tax provision has been a pain point for start-ups who have repeatedly complained that the tax burden was slowing down the angel investments made in new companies. The government will also set up a dedicated cell under a member of the Central Board of Direct Taxes to address the problems of start-ups pertaining to income tax.

“Exempting start-ups from the application of the angel tax is a good development,” Rohinton Sidhwa, partner at Deloitte India said. “Previously, the government had provided this exemption only for investment below a threshold and where only accredited investors were involved. It appears now that the exemption would be cast wider and will cover all ‘registered’ start-ups.”

Ms. Sitharaman also announced that all pending Goods and Services Tax refunds to MSMEs would be made within 30 days, and that all future refunds will be paid within 60 days. This is expected to free up a lot of capital that was otherwise locked up for the MSME sector. The government will also look into amending the



From October 1, all notices and orders by the tax department will carry a Document Identification Number. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

Notices that do not carry the unique identification number will be treated as invalid

MSME Act to arrive at a single definition for MSMEs, to avoid the confusion created by various ministries and departments using different definitions.

She also said that the pending payments by Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) to service providers would be expedited, delayed payments would be monitored by the Department of Expenditure and performance reviewed by the Cabinet Secretariat.

### Relief to borrowers

Further, in a bid to ease the plight of borrowers, Ms. Sitharaman said that the public sector banks will ensure the mandated return of loan documents within 15 days of the closure of the loan. Customers will also be able to track the status of their loans online in order to ease transparency. “To support decision-making and to prevent harassment for genuine commercial decisions by bankers, the Central Vigilance Commissioner has issued directions that the Internal Advisory Committee

(IAC) in banks will classify cases as vigilance and non-vigilance,” Ms. Sitharaman said. “The decision of the IAC is to be treated as final.”

The move is expected to increase credit outflow by banks, as several banks have said that credit decisions had been held up because bank officials have been wary of taking even genuine decisions that could later be hauled up for scrutiny.

In a bid to ease the loan disbursement process for non-banking financial companies, the government has also allowed them to use the Aadhaar-linked Know Your Customer (KYC) details with banks, instead of having to do the KYC process again themselves.

In what should come as considerable relief for the taxpayer, Ms. Sitharaman also said that from October 1, 2019, all notices, summons, or orders by the Income Tax authorities would be issued through a centralised computer system and would contain a computer-generated unique Document Identification Number (DIN).

Notices or orders that do not carry this DIN would be treated as invalid. This should go a long way in addressing instances of alleged harassment by Income Tax officials, she said.

# ‘Surcharge reversal could revive FPI flows’

‘Part of \$3 billion that flowed out of market, since Budget, expected to return’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Market participants are confident that the slew of measures announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman would go a long way in restoring the confidence of foreign investors in the Indian capital market and help in reversing the outflows seen in the recent past.

As part of her announcements to boost the economy, the Finance Minister said that the tax surcharge that was announced in the Union Budget for entities with an income of more than ₹2 crore would not be levied on foreign portfolio investors (FPIs).

### Net sellers

Ever since the surcharge was announced in July, FPIs have been demanding roll-back of the decision while ending most days as net sellers of Indian shares. The combined net selling by FPIs in July and



FPIs are exempt from the surcharge announced in the Budget for firms with over ₹2-crore income. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

August is pegged at over ₹24,500 crore.

Market participants, however, believe that Friday’s announcements could lead to foreign investors once again turning bullish on India equities.

“More than \$3 billion flowed out of the Indian market since the budget and a part of that will definitely come back to the market now,” said Harendra Kumar, managing director - Institu-

tional Equities, Elara Capital.

“This will stabilise the market as the government has clearly said that this is only a beginning. The FM’s comments clearly demonstrate that the government has identified the problem and is ready to address it. If there is no major negative news flow elsewhere during the weekend, Monday could see a huge jump in the Indian market,” he added. Interestingly, the market

was abuzz with talks on Friday that the Finance Minister would roll back the FPI surcharge, and this led to the benchmarks recover from the day’s lows and close with decent gains.

The benchmark Sensex traded in a range of more than 700 points on Friday while gaining nearly 600 points from the day’s low to close with a gain of 228 points at 36,701.

“FPI surcharge was the biggest pain point for the markets,” R. Venkataraman, co-promoter and managing director, IIFL Holdings, said, adding that the government had taken pragmatic steps to ensure that liquidity and credit flow would increase.

In a similar context, Vijay Chandok, MD and CEO, ICICI Securities, said that the withdrawal of surcharge on key investor categories like FPIs was expected to improve the inflows into the market.

# Angel tax relief brings much needed respite to start-ups

A large number of them had received notices from tax dept.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has provided the much-needed relief for the start-up community by announcing that angel tax will not be applicable on entities registered with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

While announcing a slew of measures to boost the economy, Ms. Sitharaman said while Sec 56(2) (viib) of the Income Tax Act – under which the tax is levied – would stay, it would not be applicable to start-ups that register with the DPIIT.

Industry players were unanimous in welcoming the move as the angel tax was looked upon as a major hindrance for early stage start-ups that were looking to attract funding from angel investors and other entities.

“It is immensely delightful for funded and boot-

strapped MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) that the government has considered to waive angel tax and simplify the flow of risk capital for young companies, which will allow early-stage ventures to raise seed capital,” said Srikanth Iyer, CEO and founder, HomeLane.com.

### Ease of doing business

“Furthermore, their decision to fast-track GST refunds in 30 days and CBDT’s move towards setting up a dedicated cell to address tax problems will further ease the business environment,” he added.

Angel tax is imposed on the excess share capital raised by an unlisted firm, over and above the fair market value of its shares.

This tax usually impacts start-ups and the angel investments they attract.

### Genuine cases

While aimed at curbing money-laundering, the angel tax also resulted in a large number of genuine start-ups receiving notices from the tax department.

“Acknowledging the widespread criticism faced by the tax authorities for their enthusiasm to tax start-ups, the government has finally decided to put a full stop to it,” said S.R. Patnaik, partner & head - Taxation, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas.

“Today’s decision means once you are registered as a start-up with the DPIIT, you will not be bothered by the tax authorities,” Mr. Patnaik added.

# Gangwal okay with proposed changes to Articles

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

IndiGo co-founder Rakesh Gangwal said on Friday that he was in concurrence with the decision of the Board of Directors to expand the Board to address a key contentious issue raised by him in a complaint to the SEBI.

He, however, added that fences were yet to be mended between him and the other founder Rahul Bhatia. The statement comes ahead of IndiGo’s Annual General Meeting called on August 27 to seek shareholders’ consent for amendments to the Article of Association to expand the Board.

### New policy

Mr. Gangwal also said that the Board had proposed a new policy for related party transactions, which was another issue raised by him for businesses conducted between IndiGo and Rahul Bhatia’s Inter-Globe Enterprises.

“In light of this positive and important development, I will be supporting the proposed changes to the Articles.

While much work lies ahead, including mending some fences and the regulators completing their investigations on the governance issues raised with them, it is gratifying to see progress towards better governance,” he said in a statement posted on a website created by him.

# ‘Anti-establishment friction is here to stay’

U.S. curbs may hit revenue: Huawei

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA  
SHENZHEN, CHINA

Huawei Technologies does not see ‘anti-establishment frictions’ going away any time soon and is prepared to work in such an environment for a ‘long time’, Eric Xu, the technology giant’s chairman said on Friday.

Mr. Xu, however, added that the U.S. restrictions may impact the firm’s smartphone revenues by \$10 billion, while stating that the U.S.-government’s 90-day extension to a reprieve allowing it to buy components from U.S. firms has had no impact on Huawei Technologies.

“The extension has had no impact on Huawei. We already have got used to living and working with anti-establishment frictions,” Mr. Xu said on the sidelines of a conference to launch a new artificial intelligence chip at its headquarters.

He added, “We also believe it is not very likely for Huawei to be relieved from such a working state. Huawei as a company and our employees... are fully prepared for living and working with such an environment for a long time.”

Asked about a two-month old statement by Huawei CEO Ren Zhenfai that U.S. restrictions may impact the company’s revenue by \$30 billion, Mr. Xu said, “...situation is not as pessimistic [now]... May be that was the forecast of possibly the worst scenario. Now the situation is much better than we had forecast.”



Challenges in the external environment will not impact our plans, says Eric Xu

He, however, added that these external factors may lead to an impact of about \$10 billion on the firm’s global smartphone sales. In 2018, Huawei’s revenue from devices business stood at nearly \$50 billion.

The “many challenges in the external environment”, Mr. Xu, pointed out, will not impact Huawei’s plans related to either its AI strategy or research and development.

Huawei on Friday launched “world’s most powerful AI processor” Ascend 910, under its Ascend-Max chipsets. The new chip-set is aimed at making “more affordable and abundant computing power” to help AI development.

The company also unveiled its open source AI computing framework that will make it easier for developers to make AI applications. Huawei’s AI strategy is designed to bridge these gaps, a statement said.

(The writer was in Shenzhen at the invitation of Huawei Technologies)

## WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Sinchai Bhawan, JLN Marg, Jaipur Rajasthan

E-mail: [rajasthanwrd@gmail.com](mailto:rajasthanwrd@gmail.com)  
Phone No: 0141-2702480, 0141-2702293

No:- Tender/2019-20/NHP/603 Date: 20-08-19  
E-Tender No. NHP/SPMU/RAJ/NCB/02/2019-20

On behalf of Governor of Rajasthan E-NIT No. NHP/SPMU/RAJ/NCB/02/2019-20 is invited from eligible bidder for Non-Consulting Service Hiring of services for scanning, digitization of historical data, maps and reports in Rajasthan under National Hydrology Project (NHP). Interested bidders can participate in tendering under e-procurement procedure. The details are shown below:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)
1.	Hiring of services for scanning, digitization of historical data, maps and reports in Rajasthan under National Hydrology Project (NHP)	4.55 Lakhs	2000.00
2.	Date of Commencement of Downloading of Bid Document	30-08-2019, 9.30 A.M.	
3.	Pre-Bid Meeting	06-09-2019, 02.30 P.M.	
4.	Last date for Downloading Bid Document from the E-procurement platform <a href="http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in">http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in</a>	01-10-2019, 12.30 P.M.	
5.	Last Date & Time for Bid Submission / uploading of Bid in e-procurement platform	01-10-2019, 12.30 P.M.	
6.	Time & Opening of Bid (Technical)	01-10-2019, 3.30 P.M.	
7.	Place for Opening of Bid & Address for Communication	Superintending Engineer, MIS, SPMU-NHP, WR, Sinchai Bhawan, JLN Marg, Jaipur, Rajasthan. Pincode-302017	
<b>Processing Fees (In Rs.):</b> 1000.00			
<b>Period of Completion:</b> 12 Months, 12 Months Defect liability period			

Other details are available on following website:

- (1) <http://water.rajasthan.gov.in>  
(2) <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>  
(3) <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>

UBN Code: WRD1920WSOB00652

DIPR/C/6867

Superintending Engineer, MIS  
SPMU-NHP  
Water Resources Rajasthan, Jaipur

## DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

### CORRIGENDUM

In pursuance of Tender Notification on dated 14.08.2019 in the Newspaper The Hindu, The Times of India, The Sambad & The Prameya, the following ratification of errors in the tender document is to be reflected .

- The Tender Notification number may be read as 1256 dated 09.08.2019.
- The Current account number of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Plant Protection) Odisha is **11109327637** and **IFSC- SBIN0009025** of the State Bank of India, Govt. Treasury Branch, Bhubaneswar for submission of Bank guarantee.
- The Odisha MSME Development Policy, 2016 notified on dated 24.11.2016 vide No 7845-17-MSME-63/2016 will be followed in this Tender.
- As per the Odisha Procurement Preference policy for Micro & Small Enterprises, 2015, there **should not be any minimum turnover requirement** for Micro & Small Enterprises in participating in procurement process.
- As per the Govt. of India, Ministry of Agriculture Gazette Notification Number SO-3054 (E) the **Manufacturing License** for Micronutrients, Bio-fertilizers & Organic Fertilizers is exempted.
- In trade group **Organic Fertilizer Sl. No. 3, the Press Mud** is omitted as it is not in FCO.
- The Packing size of the Trade group - Micronutrient will be 1 kg, 5 kg & 10 kg.
- The Packing size of the Trade group - Bio-fertilizer will be 200 gm/ml, 500 gm/ml & 1 kg/Litre.
- The Packing size of the Trade group - Organic Fertilizer will be 10 Kg & 25 kg.
- In Trade Group Bio-fertilizer- Azospirillum & Azotobacter (Powder & liquid) is included.
- The Schedule programme of the Tender is revised as per the following dates.

Schedule of Programme	Date	Time	Venue
Last date of Submission of Tender Documents.	10.09.2019	Up to 5:30 PM	Deputy Director of Agriculture (Plant Protection), Baramunda, Bhubaneswar
Opening of Technical documents by the Members of SLTC	11 .09.2019	10:30 AM	Quality Control Laboratory Building, Saheednagar, Bhubaneswar.
Scrutiny of Technical documents by Scrutiny Committee.	11.09.2019 to 13.09.2019	10:30 AM to 5:30 PM	
Finalization / Declaration of the Qualified Manufacturer and their products by SLTC	16.09.2019	11:00 AM onwards	
Opening of the Financial Bids	16.09.2019	2:30 PM	
Scrutiny of the Financial Bids	16.09.2019 to 18.09.2019	10:00 AM to 5:00 PM	
Submission of Proceedings of SLTC to Govt. for approval	19.09.2019		

Sd/-  
Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha



सबका साथ - सबका विकास - सबका विश्वास



# संत रविदास जी की समतामूलक समाज की परिकल्पना को साकार करने के लिए समर्पित



“परम पूज्य संत रविदास जी के विचारों का विस्तार असीम है। उनका दर्शन सही जीवन जीने का रास्ता दिखाता है। सद्भाव, समानता और सामाजिक सशक्तिकरण के लिए उनके अनमोल संदेश हमारी सरकार के लिए प्रेरणा का काम करते हैं।”

— नरेन्द्र मोदी  
प्रधानमंत्री

“संत रविदास जी एक महान समाज सुधारक एवं सिद्ध संत थे, जिनकी प्रेरणा और प्रकाश से आज भी सम्पूर्ण भारत ही नहीं बल्कि दुनिया प्रकाशमान हो रही है।”

— योगी आदित्यनाथ  
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश



19 फरवरी, 2019 को सीर गोवर्धन, वाराणसी में संत रविदास जी को नमन करते हुए प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी



22 फरवरी, 2016 को वाराणसी स्थित संत रविदास जी की जन्म स्थली सीर गोवर्धन में प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी सहभोज में प्रसाद ग्रहण करते हुए

## अन्त्योदय की दिशा में अग्रसर

- संत रविदास जी की जन्मस्थली 'सीर गोवर्धन', वाराणसी के पर्यटन विकास हेतु प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी द्वारा रु. 46 करोड़ की परियोजना का शिलान्यास।
- प्रयागराज कुम्भ 2019 में प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी द्वारा सफाई कर्मियों के पाँव पखार कर सम्मान।
- प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा सफाई कर्मियों के लिए 'स्वच्छता सेवा सम्मान कोष' की घोषणा।
- प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा 'स्वच्छता ही सेवा' अभियान के माध्यम से सफाई कर्मियों का सम्मान।
- प्रदेश के सभी विद्यालयों में संत रविदास जयन्ती के आयोजन का निर्णय।
- संत रविदास मंदिर अलवापुर, गोरखपुर का सौन्दर्यीकरण।
- राज्य सरकार द्वारा वित्तीय वर्ष 2019-20 में 23 लाख अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति के निर्धन छात्र-छात्राओं को छात्रवृत्ति हेतु रु. 2067 करोड़ का प्रावधान। छात्रवृत्ति की धनराशि प्रति छात्र रु. 2250/- से बढ़ाकर रु. 3000/- की गयी।
- एस.सी./एस.टी. व पी.सी.आर. एक्ट के तहत 15,472 परिवारों को रु.155 करोड़ की सहायता।
- अनुसूचित जाति/जनजाति अत्याचार निवारण अधिनियम 1989 में दर्ज मामलों के त्वरित निस्तारण के लिए 25 नये कोर्ट गठित करने का निर्णय।
- 'पावर फॉर ऑल' कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत समाज के आखिरी व्यक्ति को बिजली की आधारभूत सुविधा से जोड़ने हेतु पूरे प्रदेश में समान रूप से बिना भेदभाव के बिजली की आपूर्ति।
- मुख्यमंत्री सामूहिक विवाह योजना में निर्धन परिवारों की 68,000 पुत्रियों के विवाह हेतु अनुदान दिया गया।
- असंगठित क्षेत्र के 60 वर्ष से अधिक आयु के पंजीकृत कर्मकारों को रु. 1000/- प्रतिमाह पेंशन।



वाराणसी में 23 अगस्त, 2019 को भैंसासुर घाट स्थित संत रविदास जी की प्रतिमा पर श्रद्धासुमन अर्पित करते हुए मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ



प्रयागराज कुम्भ में 24 फरवरी, 2019 को प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी सफाई कर्मियों के पाँव पखारते हुए



वाराणसी में 31 जनवरी, 2018 को संत रविदास जयन्ती के अवसर पर लंगर में प्रसाद ग्रहण करते हुए मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ

कार चालक सीट बेल्ट अवश्य पहनें।

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



FILM REVIEWS

An inside look at the world of outcasts

The Egyptian film might get overly sentimental, but it succeeds in highlighting that wisp of hope that thrives among the disenfranchised

NAMRATA JOSHI

From the very first shot, the indigence permeating the frames of *Yomeddine* make you flinch in the awareness of your own elementary privileges. Leprosy, abject poverty, searching for useful products in heaps of garbage, to sell and eke a living from. It's a distressing world to witness, to say the least.

Abu Bakr Shawky centres his debut feature on a leprosy patient Beshay (played by non-actor afflicted by the condition, Rady Gamal). There is no effort to hide anything disagreeable – be it his disfigured limbs, broken foot or his wife Ireny, who is

confined to the mental diseases hospital. There is absolutely no ray of sunshine in Beshay's world, every possible enormity piles on while he carries on with life, stoic as ever. "I sent her to get cured and she came back in a coffin," is all that he says to the doctor when Ireny passes away. And the one time that he does cry out aloud, saying "I am also a human being", it hits you like a ton of bricks. As does a simple statement, "There are no lepers in Cairo", on the assumption that the urban world is, perhaps, rosier than the one they inhabit on the very periphery.

It's when Beshay decided

to travel on cart across Egypt to Qena in search of his family, that a bittersweet element comes to play. Accompanying him on the road trip are his trusted donkey Habsy and a young orphan Obama (Ahmed Abdelhafiz). Abandoned by his father for his medical condition, shunned by the society for the fear of "contamination" and "infection", Beshay finds family in Obama and for whom he becomes the surrogate father.

The sentimentality and melodrama get too deliberate, unrelenting, discomfiting, and manipulative at times. Beshay and Obama's troubles don't seem to end and keep adding up on dur-

**Yomeddine (Day of Judgement, Egypt)**

**DIRECTOR:** Abu Bakr Shawky

**CAST:** Rady Gamal, Ahmed Abdelhafiz

**RUN TIME:** 99.20 minutes

**STORYLINE:** A leprosy patient Beshay, an orphan Obama and a donkey called Habsy share a rare friendship as they go on a road trip in search of Beshay's family.

ing the journey. But these central characters, their simple relationships, mutual affection and the unaffected performances by the two actors make you warm up to the film. As does the fact that Shawky gives us a non-judge-

mental glimpse of both the sensitive and insensitive side of human beings. It's this dichotomy that knits the fabric of society.

It's rare to see an Egyptian film, in the Arabic language, in Indian multiplexes. That too, one that was the country's foreign-language Oscar nominee and awarded the Francois Chalais prize at Cannes 2018. It's interesting to see the similarities across the two 'developing' countries. The face of penury is no different in India. Neither is the wisp of hope that manages to thrive amongst the disenfranchised, despite the overwhelming sense of negativity that blots their lives.



**High sentiments** A non-judgemental look at the sensitive and insensitive side of humans

The sizzle has fizzled

An uninspired third part in the *Fallen* series

MINI ANTHIKAD CHHIBBER

Antoine Fuqua's *Olympus Has Fallen* (2013) was stylishly silly. It was a kind of Y2K *Die Hard*.

In that first film of the *Fallen* series, Special Agent Mike Banning, who holds himself responsible for the death of the First Lady, leads a one-man army against the enemy. The solid cast – including Gerard Butler (Banning), Aaron Eckhart (President Asher), Morgan Freeman (Speaker of the House Allan Trumbull), Angela Bassett (Secret Service Director Lynne Jacobs), and Ashley Judd (First Lady, Margaret Asher) – along with then director Antoine Fuqua's stylistic flourishes, had ensured a fairly engaging experience.

And *Olympus Has Fallen* did not warrant a sequel. Money, however, in words of the poet, does not talk, it

**Angel Has Fallen**

**DIRECTOR:** Ric Roman Waugh

**CAST:** Gerard Butler, Morgan Freeman, Jada Pinkett Smith, Lance Reddick, Tim Blake Nelson, Piper Perabo, Nick Nolte

**STORY LINE:** Special Agent Banning is once again fighting to save the President and life as we know it

**RUN TIME:** 121 minutes



**Rather lackadaisical** A solid cast ensures an engaging experience, but isn't enough

shouts. And along came Babak Najafi's *London Has Fallen* in 2016, where President Asher and other leaders are all under attack in London.

Now, there's a third installment, three years later, with Ric Roman Waugh's *Angel Has Fallen*. This time, Trumbull is the President, and there are evil defence contractors out to do dirty work.

Banning, who is also battling inner demons including migraine and insomnia, has to again step in and be the

all-round good guy – apart from also being a caring husband, father, and son.

Everything about this latest film is lackadaisical. Sociologists can read much into the President of the USA spending most of the movie in coma, or a wheelchair and scurrying from point A to B as people drop dead all around him, but that would be giving the movie more importance than it deserves.

Butler and Freeman return, and new cast members include Jada Pinkett Smith as

FBI agent Helen Thompson, who inexplicably does not tie her hair. Piper Perabo replaces Radha Mitchell as Banning's wife. Nick Nolte as eccentric Papa Banning completes the family album.

If you haven't had enough of the Banning boys, you could wait for the mid-credit sequence, or you could just run hell for leather, fervently praying that Banning hangs up his boots once and for all, and is chained to a desk pushing pencils until his retirement.

A bloody summer surprise

Director Alexandre Aja delivers a delicious creature feature with plenty of disconcerting chills and thrills

DEBORAH CORNELIOUS

True horror isn't always supernatural. It's the chilling dread that creeps up your spine while sitting on the edge of your seat and biting metaphorical fingernails.

Alexandre Aja astutely understands that. He's done it before with *The Hills Have Eyes* (2006) and *Horns* (2013). With *Crawl*, Aja transforms nature's cruelty into a horrifying and biting ordeal for a father-and-daughter duo.

Haley (Kaya Scodelario) must check on her father Dave (Barry Pepper) when he's radio silent during a Category 5 hurricane in Florida. He's unconscious beneath the house in a dingy crawl space when Haley finds him.

Also inhabiting the same area are two mas-

**Crawl**

**DIRECTOR:** Alexandre Aja

**CAST:** Kaya Scodelario, Barry Pepper

**STORYLINE:** When a category hurricane 5 hits Florida, Haley and her father Dave are stuck in their house's crawl space with two bloodthirsty alligators



**No big cast** The two leads, and Aja's talent of keeping tension high, are a highlight

sive alligators out for blood and flesh. As the rain threatens to drown the two protagonists, they have to fight their way to the surface and get help.

Although Scodelario and Pepper brilliantly portray the tension, fear, and trauma of a situation as perilous as theirs, *Crawl* has another star. It's Aja's sleight of hand that transports the tension from a fictional story unfurling on screen into the pit of your stomach. As the fate of

a beloved pet dog, Sugar hangs in the balance, so do your wits. Jump scares abound, but they're never gratuitous. In the crawl space, Haley drags herself bitten and bloodied on a floor rife with black muck and gunk.

The buzzing of flies are deafening, as they circle animal carcasses in a cage amid silence. Dave's broken leg, with a bone jutting out, is put back in place with a makeshift splint, made with a dirty wrench.

But it's not all squeamish. As the two protagonists fight for their lives, their relationship, slowly but surely on the mend, becomes equally important. *Crawl* needs no amplification. The unnerving sporadic music makes no impact on the senses. There aren't a myriad of characters to root for. All that's present are the two leads, their predators and the enveloping chills that keep rising. It's this disconcerting feeling that dwells for long after the film is over.

POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



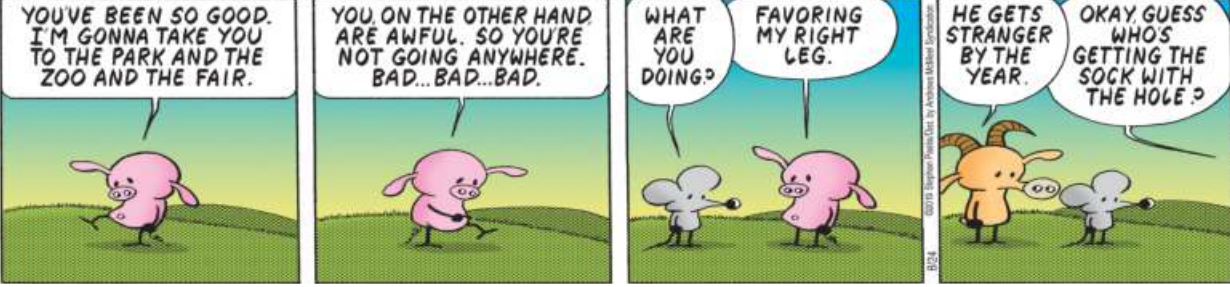
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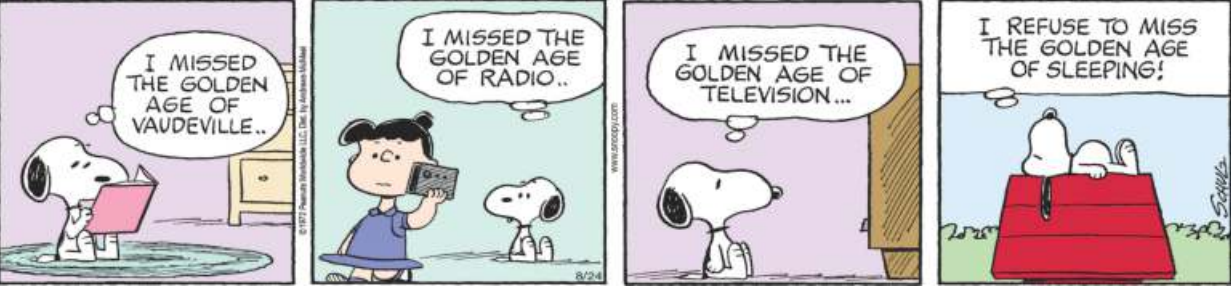
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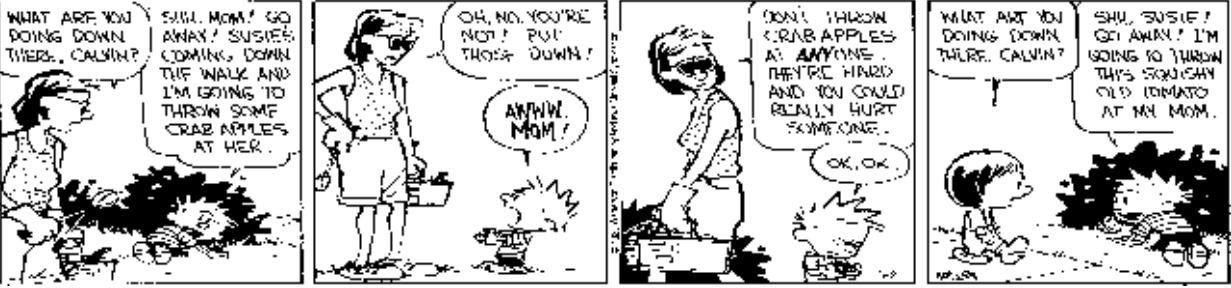
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



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by Brian Smith

HOW MUCH BACTERIA IS FOUND IN AN APPLE?

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THE AVERAGE APPLE IS CRAWLING WITH BACTERIA, AVERAGING ABOUT 90 MILLION BACTERIA PER APPLE. FRESH ORGANIC APPLES WERE FOUND TO CONTAIN THE MOST DIVERSE BALANCE OF HEALTHY MICROBIOME BACTERIA. MOST OF THE BENEFICIAL BACTERIA WERE FOUND IN THE CORE OF THE APPLE, SO EAT THAT CORE.

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13157

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- 1 Young male attendant (4)
- 3 Knitted garment (8)
- 8 Sesame Street character – patron saint of sailors (4)
- 9 Vigilante from the planet Krypton (8)
- 11 Puppet (10)
- 14 Capital of Angola (6)
- 15 Sick (6)
- 17 Trainee (10)
- 20 Tongue (8)
- 21 Mitchell, Canadian singersongwriter (4)
- 22 Pre-Raphaelite painter and poet (8)
- 23 Cosy (4)
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Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 26, 2019.

Solution No. 13156



# Will Serena return to the best version of herself?

The six-time champion arrives in New York eager to banish memories from last year's final. But there are worries over her fitness and form as she continues to chase a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam

N. SUDARSHAN

Of all god-like figures in tennis, Serena Williams is arguably the most human. Right through her career, the 23-time Major winner has provided enough evidence that she isn't immune to pressure, time and the mental weariness that accompanies constant winning. Setbacks and successes have always co-existed.

Flushing Meadows in New York has seen it all. It was here in 1999, that as a 17-year-old, she defeated Kim Clijsters, Conchita Martinez, Mary Pierce, Lindsay Davenport and Martina Hingis en route to her first Major. Much later, between 2012 and 2015, she went on a 26-match winning streak — her best across Slams — and came agonisingly close to completing a calendar Grand Slam.

Equally, it is a place that she has exited amidst a meltdown more than once. In the 2009 semifinal against Clijsters, she threatened a line-swoman, leading to a point penalty that ushered in the defeat. A blow-out loss to Samantha Stosur in the 2011 final stumped admirers. In last year's reverse to Naomi Osaka, she clashed with chair umpire Carlos Ramos and was docked a game for repeated code violations.

When the US Open starts on Monday, which version of Serena will present itself? It will be exactly two decades since her maiden triumph here and will be a story like none other if she can capture a 24th Slam at the same site, and tie Margaret Court for the all-time record. But with the happenings from 2018 still deep-rooted in memory, and persistent fitness concerns — she retired with back spasms from the Rogers Cup final in Toronto last week and then pulled out of Cincinnati — can she summon her best?

### Diminishing dominance

Serena's form since her return from maternity break has been both encouraging and dispiriting. To have reached three out of the last five Slam finals is enough indication of her staying power. But to have lost all three, without as much as winning a set, has cast doubts on her famed big-match nerve. From 1999 to 2015, the American had lost just four of the 25 finals she had featured in. Of the last seven, she has been defeated in five.

In fact, from 2012 Wimble-

don to 2017 Australian Open, Serena won 10 of the 19 Majors she entered, with her Dominance Ratio (DR) — a measure of all-round quality, calculated by dividing the % of return points won by the % of service points lost — a whopping 1.43. Since her comeback at the 2018 French Open, it has dropped to 1.26. To put this in perspective, Serena's career win-loss record (808-141 at 85%) has come at a DR of 1.33.

"You know in my 20s, I was always expected to win, but it's a different circumstance for me [now]," Serena said after losing to Simona Halep this Wimbledon. "Seems like every Grand Slam final I'm in recently has been an un-

believable effort to get there. It would be interesting to see how it would be under different circumstances. I can't say that I have a lot of tension or [am] super tense. The only thing

I can say [is] my opponents [have] played unbelievable."

### Pattern to losses

However, there is a discernible pattern that runs across these losses. Armed with one of the best serves in the history of the game, Serena has always had the first-mover advantage. Coupled with her power, she has mastered the game's faster surfaces. But just a month shy of turning 38, with her movement a tad restricted, she appears to have lost that ability to patiently work a rally, defend and grind when required.

Opponents, wherever possible, have lengthened points, passed up put-away opportunities for safer shots to draw her into rallies and have even been willing to give up an occasional point if it helps deplete Serena's physical resources. Angelique Kerber and Halep executed this to perfection in their Wimbledon triumphs in 2018 and 2019 respectively. Even the big-hitting Czech Karolina Pliskova resorted to such tactics to overcome Serena in the 2019 Australian Open quarterfinals.

### Defeat as motivation

Often in the past, Serena has used the pain of defeat as motivation. Rivals are most wary when she is hurting from a loss. But according to former World No. 1 and seven-time Major champion Mats Wilander, it is a trait that is diminishing. "Her intimidation factor is slowly disappearing, compared to the youngest ones," the Swede told *Eurosport*. "She has not been consistent in the last few years on

Tour and has not played enough tournaments and won enough matches. The dressing room probably thinks that there is a small chance that they can win because the consistency — both physical and in tennis — has not been there. The intimidation factor is not as strong with Serena, as it is with someone like Roger

[Federer] or Rafa [Nadal]."

Serena is at a stage in her career where prioritising the sport's biggest prizes is considered the norm. She herself has played an average of just three events outside the Majors in the last four years. Following Wimbledon, though, she felt more match-play was the way out. "I just have to figure out a way to win a final," she said. "Maybe playing other finals outside of Slams would be really helpful just to kind of get in the groove so by the time I get to a Slam final I'm kind of used to what to do."

### So near yet so far

The Rogers Cup in Toronto could have done wonders in this regard if not for the setback in the summit clash against Canadian teen sensation Bianca Andreescu. Two rounds earlier, she had even earned a morale-boosting straight-sets victory over World No. 1 Osaka. "The frustrating part is that I have had this before and for 24 to 36 hours I am under this spasm," she explained. "I know I can play but I just can't play on that day. They go away after 24 to 36 hours.

You know in my 20s, I was always expected to win, but it's a different circumstance for me [now]. Seems like every Grand Slam final I'm in recently has been an unbelievable effort to get there

It's like clockwork. I do different treatments, take a day off. If it's what that typically happens, then I will be fine. We will wait and see."

Regardless, to discount Serena's chances at the US Open is to do so at one's own peril. She hasn't secured a title of any kind since Melbourne 2017, even while Slam No. 24 and Court's record seemed just a hair's breadth away. Yet, steely willed as she is, there is no dearth of self-belief to reorganise her technique, calm her mind, and deliver the best at the crunch.

"I feel like I'm still incredibly competitive or else I wouldn't really be out here," Serena said. "Someone told me I shouldn't look at the records anymore. I should just focus on my game. That's kind of what I've been doing since I got to 18 [Slams]. It's really not about 24 or 23 or 25. No matter what I do, I will always have a great career. I'm just really on this journey of doing the best that I can, playing the best that I can when I can."

## THE DROP-OFF

	Win-loss	Tiebreak	Ace%	First serve in	First serve points won	Second serve points won	Return points won	Dominance Ratio*
<b>Peak:</b> 2012 Wimbledon to 2017 Australian Open (10 Wins, 2 F, 2 SF from 19 Majors)	255-23 (92%)	29-8 (78%)	13.20%	60.50%	75.80%	51.50%	48.30%	1.43
<b>Downturn:</b> 2018 French Open to 2019 Wimbledon (3 F from six Majors)	31-8 (79%)	2-0 (100%)	12.30%	60.80%	74.80%	48.70%	44.60%	1.26

\* Dominance Ratio is a measure of a player's overall quality. It is the % of return points won divided by % of service points lost  
SOURCE: TENNIS ABSTRACT

## ON THE BOX



### ■ Premier League:

**SAT:** Norwich v Chelsea, 4.50 P.M., 7.15 P.M., Liverpool v Arsenal, 9.45 P.M.; **STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & HD, 7.30 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD, SUN:** Bournemouth v Manchester City, 6.15 P.M., Tottenham v Newcastle, 8.35 P.M., **STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & HD.**

### ■ Bundesliga:

**SAT:** Schalke v Bayern Munich, 9.46 P.M.; **STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD, SUN:** Leipzig v Frankfurt, 7 P.M., Hertha Berlin v Wolfsburg, 9.15 P.M.; **STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD.**

### ■ Serie A:

**SAT:** Parma v Juventus, 9.30 P.M.; **SONY TEN 2 & HD, SUN:** Fiorentina v Napoli, 12.15 A.M., Udinese v AC Milan, 9.30 P.M.; **SONY TEN 2 & HD.**

### ■ ProKabaddi League:

**SAT:** Delhi v Bengaluru, 7.15 P.M., Jaipur v Hyderabad, 8.30 P.M.; **STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & HD, SUN:** Jaipur v Bengaluru, 7.15 P.M., Delhi v Bengaluru, 8.30 P.M.; **STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & HD.**

### ■ BWF World Tour:

**SAT:** 2.30 P.M. & 10 P.M.; **STAR SPORTS 1, HD & STAR SPORTS SELECT 2, HD, 8.30 P.M., STAR SPORTS 3, SUN:** 3.30 P.M. **STAR SPORTS 1 & HD, 4.30 P.M., STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD.**

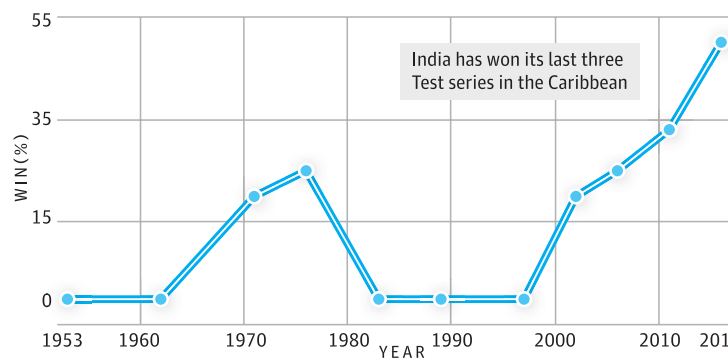
## GAME THEORY

### Fire returns to Babylon

The Windies quicks ran through India's top- and middle-order on the opening day of the first Test in Antigua on Thursday. On recent tours to the Caribbean, India has dominated in Tests. However, the hosts' bowling, led by their pacers, has undergone a dramatic upswing after 2016, the last time India toured. In the past couple of years, the Windies bowlers have been deadly at home, indicating that India might not have it easy this time around

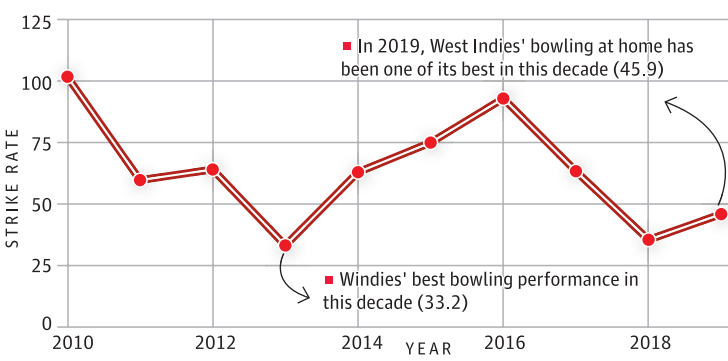
### India in the Caribbean

Touring West Indies in 2016, India won the four-match Test series 2-0 and recorded its highest-ever win-percentage in Tests in the Caribbean. India's win-percentage in Test series in West Indies has steadily increased since 2002. The graph shows India's win-percentage in Test series since the first tour in 1953



### Sudden resurgence

West Indies' bowling performance at home took a turn for the worse following 2013. In 2016, it registered its second-worst performance since 2010. However, the bowling attack, spearheaded by the pacers, has registered a marked improvement since then. The graph shows the team's bowling strike rate (balls/wicket) since 2010



**Deadly at home** Since 2017, Windies' bowling record in Tests at home is one of the best among major Test-playing countries. Only South Africa has been a better bowling unit in Tests at home. West Indies is the second-best in terms of both bowling average and strike rate. The table shows bowling statistics at home since 2017

Team	South Africa	West Indies	England	India	Bangladesh	New Zealand	Sri Lanka	Australia
Bowling average	20.07	21.70	24.64	24.17	26.74	28.03	33.44	28.12
Strike rate	37.80	45.30	47.40	51.30	51.90	55.10	57.60	59.70

Shannon Gabriel, Kemar Roach, skipper Jason Holder and Roston Chase have led Windies' revival at home and will be key to the hosts' performance against Kohli's men

DATA WORK & VIZ: SUMANT SEN | SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

## PICTURE THIS



### The grand finale

Everyone is in it to win it. The last leg of the Grand Tour, the Vuelta a España, begins today. This race is particularly challenging — for some, it's the last shot to win a Grand Tour, while winners from the first two tours hope (and often fail) to win a second.

This time, the Vuelta has been

described as "more spicy" by organisers. Already known for its challenging course and many summit finishes, the 2019 route includes a depart in Costa Blanca (Alicante), a nip into France and three more uphill finishes.

The three-week-long race is in its 74th edition and has a whole list of pre-event favourites, with defending champion Simon Yates

missing the action. Nairo Quintana (Movistar) will look to repeat his 2016 result, while Jakob Fuglsang, Miguel Angel Lopez (Astana), and Steven Kruijswijk (Team Jumbo-Visma) are expected to put up solid fights. Esteban Chaves will eye a Grand Tour win as validation after illness forced him out of the Giro d'Italia in 2018, and action for six months after that.



# Jadeja and pacers give India control

The allrounder's half-century takes the visitors to 297; West Indies reduced to 82 for three at tea

## INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

India took control of the first Test by taking three West Indies wickets after Ravindra Jadeja helped the visitors recover to 297 on day two here on Friday.

West Indies was struggling at 82 for three in its first innings at tea, trailing India by 215 runs. After scoring a fighting 58 off 112 balls, Jadeja removed debutant Shamarr Brooks (11) to leave the home team at 50 for three.

The left-arm spinner had Brooks caught at first slip after his attempted cut ricocheted off Rishabh Pant's thigh to fall into the safe hands of Ajinkya Rahane.

The other West Indies batsmen to be dismissed were openers Kraigg Brathwaite (14) and John Campbell (23), dismissed by Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami respectively.

### Providing stability

Darren Bravo (18 batting off 26 balls) and Roston Chase (10 batting off 26) provided the much-needed stability to the innings with a 32-run

partnership for the fourth wicket.

Earlier, Jadeja and Ishant frustrated West Indies with a timely 60-run stand for the eighth wicket before India was bowled out for 297 at the stroke of lunch.

Jadeja and Ishant (19 off 62) were able to ward off the threat posed by the potent pace duo of Shannon Gabriel (three for 71) and Kemar

Roach (four for 66) after losing Rishabh Pant (24) in the second over of the day.

Jadeja's innings comprised six fours and a maximum before he became the last man to be dismissed in the Indian innings, leading to lunch.

India had resumed the day at 203 for six with Pant (20) and Jadeja being the overnight batsmen.

## SCOREBOARD

### INDIA — 1ST INNINGS

K.L. Rahul c Hope b Chase 44 (97b, 5x4), Mayank Agarwal c Hope b Roach 5 (13b, 1x4), Cheteshwar Pujara c Hope b Roach 2 (4b), Virat Kohli c Brooks b Gabriel 9 (12b, 2x4), Ajinkya Rahane b Gabriel 81 (163b, 10x4), Hanuma Vihari c Hope b Roach 32 (56b, 5x4), Rishabh Pant c Holder b Roach 24 (47b, 4x4), Ravindra Jadeja c Hope b Holder 58 (112b, 6x4, 1x6), Ishant Sharma b Gabriel 19 (62b, 1x4), Mohammed Shami c & b Chase 0 (1b), Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 4 (15b); Extras (b-9, lb-8, nb-2): 19; Total (in 96.4 overs): 297.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-5 (Mayank, 4.2 overs), 2-7 (Pujara, 4.6), 3-25 (Kohli, 7.5), 4-93 (Rahul, 34.2), 5-175 (Vihari, 54.5), 6-189 (Rahane, 59.4), 7-207 (Pant, 70.5), 8-267 (Ishant,

89.6), 9-268 (Shami, 90.2).  
**WEST INDIES BOWLING**  
Roach 25-6-66-4, Gabriel 22-5-71-3, Holder 20.4-11-36-1, Cummins 13-1-49-0, Chase 16-3-58-2.

### WEST INDIES — 1ST INNINGS

Kraigg Brathwaite c & b Ishant 14 (51b, 1x4), John Campbell b Shami 23 (30b, 4x4), Shamarr Brooks c Rahane b Jadeja 11 (36b, 1x4), Darren Bravo (batting) 18 (26b, 2x4, 1x6), Roston Chase (batting) 10 (26b, 1x4); Extras (b-4, lb-1, nb-1): 6; Total (for three wkts. in 28 overs, at tea): 82.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-36 (Campbell, 7.6), 2-48 (Brathwaite, 17.5), 3-50 (Brooks, 20.3).

### INDIA BOWLING

Ishant 8-2-32-1, Bumrah 8-2-11-0, Shami 7-3-17-1, Jadeja 5-2-17-1.



Good hand: Ravindra Jadeja's responsible innings underscored his utility for Team India. ■ AFP

## THE ASHES

REUTERS  
LEEDS

Australia was well-positioned to register a win, that will see it retain the Ashes, after opening up a 283-run lead over England, on day two of the third Test at Headingley on Friday.

The tourists ripped through England to bowl the host out for 67 in its first innings for its lowest Test innings total against Australia since 1948.

Jason Roy's struggles continued as he fell early before Joe Root followed his golden duck at Lord's by lasting one more ball on his home ground.

## SCOREBOARD

Australia — 1st innings: 179.

**England — 1st innings:** Rory Burns c Paine b Cummins 9, Jason Roy c Warner b Hazlewood 9, Joe Root c Warner b Hazlewood 0, Joe Denly c Paine b Pattinson 12, Ben Stokes c Warner b Pattinson 8, Jonny Bairstow c Warner b Hazlewood 4, Jos Buttler c Khawaja b Hazlewood 5, Chris Woakes c Paine b Cummins 5, Jofra Archer c Paine b Cummins 7, Stuart Broad (not out) 4, Jack



Deadly: Josh Hazlewood's five-for wrecked the England line-up on Friday. ■ REUTERS

Rory Burns went next while Ben Stokes edged to David Warner — one of four catches taken by the Australia

opener. Australia, led by Josh Hazlewood's five for 30, made light work of the England tail.

# Ramprakash tipped for NCA batting coach job

AMOL KARHADKAR  
MUMBAI

Jonty Rhodes didn't make the cut in the top three for the fielding coach's post but Mark Ramprakash did when it came to the batting coach.

While the No. 1 choice in all the categories was recommended for the post of the national men's team's support staff, the second- and third-ranked candidates would be considered for India-A and at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru. "There is no point in looking at second and third positions except in one case where we brought in Mark Ramprakash, otherwise I don't really see taking them (foreigners). We will be using them for India-A and we might use them for NCA also," said chief selector M.S.K. Prasad.

### What next for Bangar?

However, the shortlist for

batting coach's post is intriguing since Sanjay Bangar has been placed second, sandwiched between the new batting coach Vikram Rathour and Ramprakash, former England batsman.

Does this mean that Bangar would be considered for the post that's been vacant? *The Hindu* understands that the selection panel listed Bangar at No. 2 primarily as a mark of respect for his contribution.

The selection panel doesn't really expect Bangar to take up the NCA role.

That would make Ramprakash — who has expressed desire to work with India's fringe players after doing the same with England U-19 and England Lions for six years — a prime contender for the NCA batting coach position.

But as Prasad stressed, the final call will be taken by Rahul Dravid, the Head of Cricket at the NCA.

# Dream 11, Hyundai, ACC get BCCI's partners' rights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The BCCI on Friday announced that Sporta Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (Dream11), LafargeHolcim (ACC Cement and Ambuja Cement) and Hyundai Motor India Ltd. have acquired the official partners' rights for its international and domestic

matches.

"The consolidated winning bids were at a price of ₹222.74 crore to be paid for the 2019-23 home season.

"The consolidated winning bid was ₹2.59 crore per match, which is at 72% incremental value in comparison to the previous value of ₹1.5 crore," the BCCI said.

# Sai Praneeth ends a 36-year-long wait

First Indian male since Padukone to be assured of a medal; Sindhu, too, makes semifinals

## BADMINTON WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BASEL

B. Sai Praneeth became the first Indian male shuttler in 36 years to grab a medal in the World Championships while P.V. Sindhu secured her fifth medal following a stunning comeback here on Friday.

On a day of double delight for India, Sindhu staged a come-from-behind victory over Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying, before Praneeth ended an agonising wait with a straight-game win over Indonesia's Jonatan Christie.

Sindhu edged past World No. 2 and Asian Games gold medallist Tzu Ying 12-21, 23-21, 21-19 in a pulsating contest that lasted 71 minutes, inching closer to an elusive gold medal at the Worlds.

World No. 19 Praneeth,



Closer to glory: P.V. Sindhu is ecstatic after bouncing back to best Tai Tzu Ying. ■ REUTERS

who got the Arjuna Award this year, notched up a 24-22, 21-14 win over Asian Games gold medallist Christie of In-

donesia in a 51-minute battle, joining Prakash Padukone in the medal list at the tournament. Padukone had won

bronze in the 1983 edition.

In the opening game, the Indian jumped to an 8-4 lead, but the Indonesian

S. DINAKAR  
CHENNAI

In a serene setting on a quaint ground circled by trees that swayed in the evening breeze and a lovely pavilion with a clock tower which overlooked the arena, Ambati Rayudu appeared at peace with himself.

The storms that ravaged his mind following the harsh World Cup snub appeared far behind.

It was in this setting on Friday that Rayudu made a significant announcement.

### Formal letter soon

"I would be playing in the IPL. I would also be coming back into white ball [domestic] cricket as soon as possible. I will be sending them [the Board] a formal letter soon," he said.

Even as the World Cup was on in England, Rayudu had announced retirement from all forms of the game.

Although he denies it now, it was an emotional decision from a man who had seldom got his due despite averaging a laudable 47.05 in 55 ODIs.

And here, he was at the IIT-Chemplast ground on Friday, stroking the ball fluently during his 47 for Grand Slam against Jolly Rovers in the VAP Trophy. Rayudu was back.

Asked what forced him to leave the game, Rayudu replied, "I worked for four years for the last World Cup. Then I was not picked. I felt maybe it was time."



Ambati Rayudu. ■ FILE PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Why then did he change his mind? The 33-year-old Rayudu, who appeared fit and ready, said "I had some time to think. CSK has always been extremely supportive of me, they spoke to me about playing cricket again. I still loved the game, wanted to enjoy it."

Rayudu said, "My top priority is to get physically fit, to the level I was earlier. But I will not play in the different leagues abroad."

The man with different strokes is open to the idea of representing India again. "Right now I am taking it as it comes, step by step. I haven't thought about it [playing for India] so far. But I cannot say no to India if the offer comes."

After a mental switch, a refreshed Rayudu is back in the hunt.

# WADA suspends NDTL accreditation

Y.B. SARANGI  
KOLKATA

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has suspended the National Dope Testing Laboratory's (NDTL) accreditation for a period of up to six months due to non-conformities with the International Standard for Laboratories (ISL).

The flaws, including in relation to the laboratory's isotope ratio mass spectrometry analytical method as regulated by the relevant technical document, were identified by WADA during a site visit.

The disciplinary proceedings were initiated by WADA's Laboratory Expert Group (LabEG) in May last.

UTHRA GANESAN  
NEW DELHI

Reacting to the suspension of NDTL, Union Sports Secretary Radhey Shyam Julaniya denied the WADA charges on Friday.

"The decision is based on their inspection in September 2018 and comes at a time when all compliances have been done. They had pointed out 47 action points, of which on 43 they have accepted the NDTL's compliance satisfactory.

"On the remaining four, work is near completion. The question is, have they taken into account the fresh developments during the

The process was subsequently carried out by an independent disciplinary committee.

"The suspension, which took effect on August 20, prohibits the NDTL from carrying out any anti-doping activities, including analyses of urine and blood samples," WADA said in a statement on Friday.

"During the period of suspension, samples that have not yet been analysed by the NDTL; samples currently undergoing a confirmation procedure; and any samples for which an adverse analytical finding has been reported, must be securely transported to another WADA-accredited laboratory.

**I have taken cognisance of the issues and a course correction initiated. It is disheartening that WADA has taken this stance. We will appeal against the ban and the process is under way**

KIREN RIJJU  
Union Sports Minister

"This is in order to ensure continued high-quality sample analysis, which also helps preserve athletes' confidence in this process and the wider anti-doping system," the statement said. NDTL can appeal this de-

cision in the Court of Arbitration for Sport within 21 days of receipt of notice.

During its suspension, NDTL "shall address all non-conformities" in any request for corrective action or otherwise, as well as any additional non-conformities identified during any follow-up WADA site visit."

If NDTL satisfies the LabEG about these requirements, it can apply for reinstatement prior to the expiry of the six-month suspension period.

In case it does not address the non-conformities by the end of six months, WADA may extend the suspension for up to an additional six months.

# Decision based on old data: Julaniya

43 of 47 issues raised by WADA have been addressed, says Sports Secretary

last visit," Julaniya told *The Hindu*.

Claiming that a lack of representation on the WADA Board was hurting India — something the government plans to rectify with Sports Minister Kiren Rijju filing his nomination — Julaniya reiterated that the country was fully compliant to anti-doping rules.

"We were supposed to do 3000 tests (in a calendar year) and we have already done so. But now we will have to send samples out of India. The cost of testing here is less than 25 percent compared to other labs. The government would not want

to incur irrational costs and so we will reduce the number of samples sent," he explained.

Asked about the way forward, Julaniya said the government was keeping its options open. When we protested the decision, they started asking for voluminous paperwork of all things done in the past. It has to be prepared in a certain format which normally takes 3-4 months but we will try to do it all in two weeks.

"Then we can tell them to send their team for inspection. If we can do that and get the team to visit us early, we will follow that route. But

if we feel that appealing would be the shorter route, we will try that. We will take a decision in two weeks," Julaniya said.

IOA president Narinder Batra, however, put the blame on NADA. "Who will bear the extra cost?" he asked. But, Julaniya said NDTL was a separate entity and that NADA had no "shortcomings or lacuna, it is an effective body".

NADA director-general Navin Aggarwal too distanced himself from the decision. He said NADA's testing or sample collecting process would not be affected in any way.

# Thalaivas go down to U Mumba

## PKL

S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN  
CHENNAI

Tamil Thalaivas lost its last home match 29-24 to U Mumba in the ProKabaddi League (PKL) here on Friday.

Rahul Chaudhari top-scored with six points for Thalaivas, while M.S. Athul scored a maximum of seven for U Mumba.

Rahul appeared to be in pain, taking an unintended blow to the head as Fazel Atrachali made a particularly rough tackle on him. Rahul, who had managed to touch a defender, was rushing to his side of the court when Fazel dashed at and tried to hold him. Thalaivas led 9-6.

Thalaiva's Mohit Chhillar pulled off a remarkable tackle on Athul, as he got to the front of the raider who had made the touch and was returning, and locked him into



Pinned down: U Mumba players come up with a successful tackle against Tamil Thalaivas' Ajay Thakur. ■ R. RAGU

a hold. Thalaivas was up 10-6. Abhishek Singh and Harendra Kumar came up with a super tackle on Rahul for U Mumba to get to 9-12 from 7-12.

Earlier, Gujarat Fortune-giants beat Patna Pirates 29-26.

Captain Pardeep Narwal, again, top-scored for Pirates with nine points, and the

team's second best raider Mohammad Maghsoudlou managed only four points. Whereas, Gujarat's best raiders Rohit Gulia (10) and G.B. More (6) shared 16 points among them.

**The results:** Gujarat Fortune-giants 29 (Rohit Gulia 10) bt Patna Pirates 26 (Pardeep Narwal 9); U Mumba 29 (M.S. Athul 7) bt Tamil Thalaivas 24 (Rahul Chaudhari 6).



TV PICKS

**Sri Lanka vs New Zealand:** Second Test, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 10 a.m.  
**BWF World Championships:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 2.30 p.m.  
**The Ashes:** Third Test, Sony Six (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.  
**Durand Cup:** Star Sports 3, 5 p.m.  
**West Indies vs India:** First Test, Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.  
**PKL:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Three players 'trick in Ashokenagar Boys' massive win

NEW DELHI: Ashokenagar Boys' Secondary School (H.S.), West Bengal rode on Rajibul Islam, Md. Jahedi Hasan, and Mujibar Mondal's hat-tricks as it routed Our Lady Mount Carmel School, Goa, 11-0 in their Pool D match of the Subroto Cup football tournament.

In Pool G, Govt. Orient Higher Secondary School, Edathanathukara (Palakkad)'s Aris Khan hit five goals in the 6-0 win over Mamta Modern Senior Secondary School, H-Block (Vikasपुरी), New Delhi.

**The results:**  
**Pool A:** Shri Lilanand High School, Jasidih (Deoghar), Jharkhand 6 (Ravi Hembram 3, Akash Hembram 2, Santosh Soren) bt Pathways World School, International Board of Schools (IBSO), Gurgaon 0.

**Pool D:** Ashokenagar Boys' Secondary School (H.S.), West Bengal 11 (Rajibul Islam 3, Md. Jahedi Hasan 3, Mujibar Mondal 3, Samim Islam, Toufil Alam) bt Our Lady Mount Carmel School, Goa 0.

**Pool E:** Tripura Sports School, Panisagar 2 (Stephen Darlung, Binod Kumar Reang) bt KV Maithan Dam (Ranchi) 1 (Abhilin Kumar Singh).

**Pool F:** SAI, NSEC, Salt Lake City, Kolkata 2 (Ghuque Chishi, Alex K. Ginsuanmung) drew with Maharana Pratap Sports College, Raipur (Dehradun) 2 (Harsh Chhimwal, Akshit Negi).

**Pool G:** Betkuchi High School, Sawkuchi (Guwahati), 11 (Hari Rabha 4, Satyajit Bay 2, Geolang Basumatary 2, Nixon Brahma , Mintu Barman, Ranjan Narjari) bt Sainik School, Tilaiya (Koderma), Jharkhand 0; Govt. Orient Higher Secondary School, Edathanathukara (Palakkad) 6

(Aris Khan 5, Md. Samir) bt Mamta Modern Senior Secondary School, H-Block (Vikasपुरी), New Delhi 0.

**Pool H:** Meghalaya's District War Sepngi Christian Higher Sec. School 3 (Rimakhraw Kharmunid, Wysiendor Nengnong, Rymbai) bt Major Dhyana Chand Sports College Saifai, UP 0.

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# Karun digs in before rain intervenes

Kalsi provides solid support; India Blues' fielding found wanting

DULEEP TROPHY

ASHWIN ACHAL  
BENGALURU

Karun Nair (92 batting, 189b, 9x4) came good for India Red on the first day of its Duleep Trophy fixture against India Blue here on Friday.

The Karnataka batsman took India Red to 163 for two, before rain forced play to be called off in the evening session. Elegant southpaw Ankit Kalsi (48 batting, 171b, 4x4) – solid and compact in defence – kept Karun company.

Karun was in his element, paddle sweeping the spinners, and crisply driving and flicking the pacers. He brought up his fifty with a lofted drive over mid-on off left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar. He looked set to record a century, until rain spoiled his plans.

Himachal Pradesh bat-

smen Kalsi, meanwhile, was happy to stick around and play a long knock.

Reprieve for Kalsi

He did receive a reprieve on 34, when Ricky Bhui put down a sitter in the slips. The bowler, off-spinner Lalaj Saxena, was leaving yelling in frustration.

In general, the India Blue fielding was lethargic and sorely lacked energy.

Earlier, left-arm fast bowler Aniket Choudhary took out Abhimanyu Easwaran for a duck, leg-before off the third ball of the match.

Skipper Priyank Panchal was next to go for 15, nicking one from speedster Diwesh Pathania to wicketkeeper Snell Patel. Karun and Kalsi then put on a 120-run stand for the third wicket.

**The scores:** India Red 163 for two in 68 overs (Karun Nair 92 batting, Ankit Kalsi 48 batting) vs India Blue.



In his element: Karun Nair used the paddle-sweep and crisp drives to good effect. ■ FILE PHOTO

## NIDJAM gets bigger and better

Milo to be the title sponsor for the talent programme

ANANT KAUR  
NEW DELHI

Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Friday unveiled Nestle Milo's as title sponsor for the National inter-district junior athletics meet (NIDJAM) – one of the world's largest talent hunt programmes for a single sport, with over 50,000 young athletes participating in it every year to qualify for the finals.

In the past it has unearthed champions like Neeraj Chopra, Dutee Chand, Navjeet Kaur Dhillon and V. Subha. The initiative is a platform for athletes in the under-14 and under-16 age groups to showcase their talent across 10 disciplines.

Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president Adille Sumariwalla welcomed the initiative. "This year, we are taking it to newer heights by



**New partnership:** AFI president Adille Sumariwalla, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Nestle chairman Suresh Narayanan at the function to announce Milo's association with NIDJAM.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGMENT

not only increasing the platform's reach to over 400 districts, but we will also be extending financial support to over 100 district associations across the country as a way of recognising and rewarding their hard work," he said.

Starting 2019, talent iden-

tified at NIDJAM will be trained and groomed by expert coaches at special national camps, in partnership with Khelo India with Olympics 2024 and 2028 as milestones.

The 2019 edition will be held from November 24 to 26 in Andhra Pradesh.

## Boult and Southee rattle Sri Lanka

Rain disrupts play on day two, too; Boult joins 250 club

KIWIS IN SL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
COLOMBO

Trent Boult and Tim Southee led New Zealand's charge against Sri Lanka on day two of the rain-hit second Test here on Friday.

The pacemen claimed two wickets each as Sri Lanka reached 144 for six at lunch when rain came down and no further play was possible.

Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne moved from his overnight 49 to score 65 and provided the only bit of resistance in the morning session, which saw 29.3 overs bowled.

Southee, like Boult, also delivered a double-wicket maiden as the duo put on a superb display of seam bowling under overcast conditions.

Boult got overnight batsman Angelo Mathews caught behind for two to



**Landmark wicket:** Trent Boult is congratulated by teammates on dismissing Angelo Mathews for his 250th wicket in Tests ■ GETTY IMAGES

reach a landmark of 250 Test wickets – only the third Kiwi bowler to achieve the feat.

Weather permitting, ex-

tended playing time is planned for the third day after two days of continuous rain interruptions in the Sri Lankan capital.

SCOREBOARD

**Sri Lanka – 1st innings:** D. Karunaratne c Watling b Southee 65, L. Thirimanne c Williamson b Somerville 2, K. Mendis c Watling b de Grandhomme 32, A. Mathews c Watling b Boult 2, Kusal Perera lbw b Boult 0, D. de Silva (batting) 32, N. Dickwella c Watling b Southee 0, Dilruwan Perera (batting) 5; Ex-

tras (b-1, lb-2, nb-3) 6. Total (for six wkts. in 66 overs): 144.

**Fall of wkts:** 1-29, 2-79, 3-93, 4-93, 5-130, 6-130.

**New Zealand bowling:** Boult 14-5-33-2, Southee 20-5-40-2, de Grandhomme 17-3-35-1, Somerville 6-3-20-1, Ajaz 9-3-13-0.

## Abhisheka fights past Gurlin

SQUASH

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GREATER NOIDA

Abhisheka Shannon fought her way past Gurlin Kaur Nidhi in another match, Nepal beat Sri Lanka 2-0 to open its account on the points table.

**The results:** Bangladesh 5 (Mohd. Al Amin Rahman 15; Al Mirad 21, 80; Shuvo Sarkar 45; Mohd. Emon Islam Babu 94) bt Bhutan 2 (Sonam Jugdrul Chozang 17; Phub Dorji 32); Nepal 2 (Sasank Bohra 46; Ashim Rai 83) bt Sri Lanka 0.

Egypt.

In the men's \$12,000 event, former Asian junior champion and British junior champion, Velavan Senthilumar, who got a wild card entry, proved too hot for Varun Johnny, and dropped a mere two points in winning the three games.

In the pre-quarterfinals, Velavan will be up against fourth seed Aadit Zaveri.

In another more competitive match, Vikas Mehra beat Navaneeth Prabhu

11-7, 8-11, 11-9, 11-7.

**The results (first round):**

**Men:** Hasanain Dakheel (Iraq) bt Rounak Yadav 11-8, 11-8, 7-11, 11-3; Mohd. Farez Izwan (Mas) bt Jaideep Singh Sethi 11-2, 11-1, 11-5; Yash Fadte bt Ravi Dixit 11-3, 11-3, 11-8.

Vikas Mehra bt Navaneeth Prabhu 11-7, 8-11, 11-9, 11-7; Velavan Senthilumar bt Varun Johnny 11-1, 11-1, 11-0; Rutvik Rau bt Omar El Hadidi (Egypt) 11-4, 11-3, 11-4.

**Women:** Megha Bhatia bt Trina Iris 11-6, 11-4, 11-3; Abhisheka Shannon bt Gurlin Kaur 11-4, 4-11, 7-11, 11-6, 11-4.

## ISL kicks off in Kochi on Oct. 20

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHI

For the third successive year, Kerala Blasters FC will take on ATK in the Indian Super League opener. Last year the venue was Kolkata and this time the stage for the sixth edition's opener, on October 20, will be Kochi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

Defending champion Bengaluru FC hosts North-East United FC the next day while two-time winner Chennaiyin FC begins its campaign with an away game against FC Goa, last year's runner-up, on October 23.

The ISL schedule, announced on Friday with fixtures till December 15, will have a break from November 11 to 22.

## Modern School teams in final

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Raviya Suri won her singles match and the doubles to help Modern School, Vasant Vihar beat 2-1 Bhatnagar International School, Vasant Kunj, and set up a final clash with Modern School, Barakhamba Road, in the middle school section of the second DDA inter-school tennis tournament on Friday.

**The results (semifinals): Senior boys:** Bal Bharati Public School, Pitampura, bt Delhi Public School, Faridabad 2-0; Little Angels SSS, Sonapat, bt Modern School, Barakhamba Road, 2-0.

**Middle school boys:** Air Force Bal Bharati School, Lodhi Road, bt Welham Boys School, Dehradun 2-1; Delhi Pubic School, Noida, bt Little Angels SSS, Sonapat, 2-0.

**Junior boys:** DPS, Vasant Kunj bt St. Marks SS Public School, Meera Bagh, 2-0; Bal Bharati Public School, Pitampura, bt Modern School, Vasant Vihar, 2-1.

**Senior girls:** Ajanta Public School bt Air Force Bal Bharati School, Lodhi Road 2-0; Little Angels SSS, Sonapat bt Bal Bharati Public School, Pitampura, 2-0.

**Middle school girls:** Modern School, Vasant Vihar, bt Bhatnagar International School, Vasant Kunj, 2-1; Modern School, Barakhamba Road, bt Birla Vidya Niketan, Pushp Vihar, 2-0.

**Junior girls:** Bal Bharati Public School, Pitampura, bt The Heritage School, Vasant Kunj, 2-1; The Air Force School, Subroto Park, bt Little Angels SSS, Sonapat 2-1.

## India bags archery bronze

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MADRID

The Indian junior men's compound team won a bronze while Sukhbeer Singh assured himself of a second medal in the World archery youth championships here on Friday.

## Ganguly surprised by spinner selection

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The choice of left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja as India's sole specialist spinner in the ongoing first Test against the West Indies has left Sourav Ganguly flummoxed.

The spinners sitting out are R. Ashwin and Kuldeep Yadav.

The ex-India captain said: "I was surprised to see Kuldeep Yadav left out.

"If you remember, in Sydney on a good flat pitch, he picked up five wickets against Australia.

"Jadeja also has been in good form, the surface at Antigua needed three fast bowlers due to seam movement."

Ganguly added: "And it was a question of the spin (option). Ashwin's record is phenomenal (against the West Indies) and to leave



Sourav Ganguly ■ PTI

**Ashwin's record is phenomenal (against the West Indies) and to leave him out (was surprising)**

him out (was surprising). It's a decision Kohli has made.

"We will find out in the next couple of days how far Jadeja goes on to pick wickets."

## Sumit Nagal enters final round

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW YORK

India's Sumit Nagal moved one step closer to his first ever Grand Slam appearance with a hard fought win over Peter Polansky in the second round of the US Open qualifiers, here.

Nagal, placed at a career-best 190, knocked out the 192nd-ranked Canadian 7-5 7-6(0) in two hours eight minutes on Thursday night in the men's singles qualifiers.

This is Nagal's first attempt at making the Grand Slam singles main draw this season in which he enjoyed considerable success and broke into the top-200.

## Final opponents wary of each other's strengths

DURAND CUP

Y.B. SARANGI  
KOLKATA

Following their gruelling semifinals the other night, Mohun Bagan and Gokulam Kerala are focused on recovering in time for the summit cash of the Durand Cup football tournament at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Saturday.

"It is going to be very tough. Both teams played 120 minutes in this heat. Humidity is very high. The players need to recover soon," said Bagan coach Kibu Vicuna on Friday. "Both teams have same possibility to win. It is 50-50."

Each side acknowledged the opposition's strengths.

"Gokulam have good players. Last match they played in a different shape.

## Bava loses to top seed in last eight

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU  
JAKARTA

Top seed Renta Tokuda of Japan stopped the good run of Haadin Bava with a 6-4, 6-3 victory in the quarterfinals of the \$15,000 ITF Men's Futures tennis tournament here on Friday.

In a similar event in Tunisia, second seed Matias Zukas of Argentina beat Rishab Agarwal in the quarterfinals. In the \$25,000 ITF women's event in China, Rutuja Bhosale and Chihiro Muramatsu lost in doubles semifinals.

**The results: \$15,000 ITF men, Jakarta:** Quarterfinals: Renta

Tokuda (Jpn) bt Haadin Bava 6-4, 6-3.

**\$15,000 ITF men, Tabarka, Tunisia:** Quarterfinals: Matias Zukas (Arg) bt Rishab Agarwal 6-1, 6-4.

**\$25,000 ITF women, Guiyang:** Doubles (semifinals): Eudice Chong (HK) & Aldila Sutjiadi (Ina) bt Chihiro Muramatsu (Jpn) & Rutuja Bhosale 6-4, 6-2.

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IRDAI invites Expression of Interest from eligible bidders for transitioning of its Business Analytics Project (BAP) application and maintenance of the same for Seven years beyond November 2019. For details, please visit [www.irdai.gov.in](http://www.irdai.gov.in) or [eprocare.gov.in](http://eprocare.gov.in).  
**Executive Director**

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NW)II H-BLOCK: SECTOR-15: ROHINI:DELHI-110089 PH:27851040 (E-MAIL <a href="mailto:eenw2.djb@gmail.com">eenw2.djb@gmail.com</a> ) PRESS NIT NO.23 (2019-20) Press Notice Tender					
S. No.	Name of work	Amount put to Tender	Earnest Money / Tender Fee	Date of release of tender procurement solution/I.D. No.	Last date/time of receipt of bid through e-procurement solution
1	Landscaping work for revival of defunct Oxidation Pond Timarpur through Engineered Ecological System of treatment of Waste Water and creation of Tourist Attraction.	Item Rate	Rs. 39,60,000/- Rs.1500/-	20.08.2019 2019_DJB_178576_1	17.09.2019 upto 3.00 PM
Further details in this regard can be seen at <a href="https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in">https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in</a> . Issued By P.R.O (Water) Advt. No., J.S.V. 290/2019-20 Executive Engineer (NW)II					

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SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE SHAR  
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**NO:CMG/TG/11987021, P 1987022**  
Dt: 22.08.2019  
**Corrigendum-I**  
Sub: 1) Package (A): Liquid Oxygen Filling System and Nitrogen Supply System - Second Launch Pad Augmentation Project for Semi Cryo Stage at SDSC SHAR (Civil & Electrical Works)  
2) Package (B): LOFS Storage Augmentation for C-32 and Isrosene Filling system & Pressurization stage - Second Launch Pad Augmentation Project for Semi Cryo Stage at SDSC SHAR (Civil & Electrical Works) - Reg;  
Ref: 1) e\_NIT NO: CMG/C/11987021, Dt:24/07/2019  
2) e\_NIT NO: CMG/C/P 1987022, Dt:24/07/2019  
Please note the following change in the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for the subject work.

Sl.No.	Description	Read for	Read As
1	Period during which the tender documents can be requested	From:02/08/2019,10:00Hrs To: 16/08/2019,14:00Hrs	Extended Upto : 03/09/2019
2	Last date and time for uploading of tenders	21/08/2019,14:30 Hrs	Extended upto: 06/09/2019

All other terms & conditions of tender remain unaltered. This corrigendum also forms a part of the tender document.  
Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from website [www.isro.gov.in](http://www.isro.gov.in) / [www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO](http://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO). For further details and purchase of tender documents visit [www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO](http://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO). Ph: 08623 226447, 226420.  
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